

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, dear colleagues,

Good morning and welcome to the session on Article 7 reporting and transparency measures.

This session will be somewhat different, and shorter, than usual since the subject has been divided in several parts.

On Monday, we considered the compliance issue with Art 7 under General Status and Operation of the Convention in which we presented the statistics of the reporting rate.

After this session, we will have a more detailed presentation on reporting on Victim Assistance to raise awareness on the importance of collecting accurate and complete information.

What's left for this session then? You will recall that, at the fourth MSP in Lusaka, Belgium, in its capacity of coordinator on Transparency Measures, has proposed a working paper with "the State of Play and the way ahead for a better exchange of information", under reference CCM/MSP/2013/WP.4 .

This document proposes clear objectives and concrete actions both on quantitative as qualitative level. During this session I'd like to give a state of play on the implementation of this document.

At the quantitative level, I won't come back in details on the figures that were presented on Monday. I leave them on the screen as a reminder. The paper puts a special focus on the submission of initial reports. The initial reports are the benchmark against which the progress of the implementation of the Convention is measured and are, therefore, crucial for our work. This focus should not jeopardize the overall efforts for a full implementation of the Article 7 obligations and more particular the efforts to encourage affected States to submit their annual update.

We sent reminder letters to all States Parties and a differentiated letter to those SP that didn't submit their initial report yet.

We had consultations with several States Parties to identify their concerns and to offer them assistance. I would like to seize the opportunity to thank the other States parties, international organizations and civil society for their help and support in this field. I also recognize the possibility to coordinate our actions to make them even more efficient.

Having a high reporting rate without precise and accurate information is of less use. States should be encouraged to take full advantage of the tools at their proposal for the submission of high quality reports. In order to assist States parties in completing the proposed reporting form in an efficient way, we presented at the 3 MSP a draft reporting guide. This draft is already useful and can be found on de Convention's website. It will also be posted shortly at the UNODA website on the CCM. As already stated before, this guide will be updated when needed. All suggestions and contributions are welcome.

During the last intersessional meetings, we promoted the importance of reporting in the different thematic technical workshops. This experience was encouraging but had to be fine-tuned. That's why we will limit these presentations to one thematic issue this year's intersessional meetings and

go more into detail. After consultation with the coordinators we thought that a presentation on the importance of reporting in Victim Assistance could be useful. I already thank the coordinators for giving us the opportunity to do so.

In the working paper we fixed the first review conference as the natural dead line for the evaluation of the progress made in implementing the different actions for a better exchange of information. Things are moving, but a lot of challenges remain. We still have a lot of work to do. Work for all the stakeholders of this Convention. I thank all those who already contributed and invite those SP that want to engage in promoting reporting to join us.

Dear colleagues,

I want to conclude by recalling the date of 31 April, the deadline for the submission of the annual updates and by inviting all SP to respect this deadline.

I also urge those SP that are late with the submission of their initial report to do so without delay or to take contact with us for assistance.

I now open the floor for comments or suggestions on the matter of reporting and exchange of information.