Thank you Mr President

Norway, as Friend of the President on matters pertaining to General Status and Operations of the Convention, has been asked by the President/you to coordinate the development of the Beirut Progress Report.

The Beirut Progress Report will be a tool to assist our discussions at the Second Meeting of States Parties on the implementation of the 2010 Vientiane Action Plan. The report will present a brief overview over how States have implemented relevant actions in the Vientiane Plan since the First Meeting of States Parties. As the primary objective of the report is to facilitate the plenary discussions it will present an aggregate analysis and identify key overall questions for discussion without reference to any individual state. Where relevant, the report may refer to actions taken by signatory states as well as State Parties.

The contents of the report will be drawn from open sources, including the submitted transparency reports, presentations and interventions made during this week and other public available material. Therefore the Beirut Progress Report will not require individual States Parties to prepare any additional reporting apart from what they already have planned for, but we encourage you to provide UNDP with copies of your statements as they have asked for, as that also will help our work.

My colleague Kristin Obrestad who sits next to me here is our coordinator for collecting relevant material this week. Please feel free to contact her or any other in our delegation for anything regarding the report. Kristin may also contact some of you for clarifications.

The report will be structured with thematic sections reflecting the operative parts of the Vientiane Action Plan. A draft outline of the report structure was presented at the open informal meeting on 27 May, and is available on the clusterconvention website. We welcome all comments to the outline.

The thematic Friends of the President will provide additional information based on their own consultations and analyses. Norway will rely on the substantial contributions from the Thematic Friends, as they are closer to the subject matter. Other states and partners that have an interest are more than welcome to provide comments and input during this week’s meetings.
The report will be relatively short and general in style. A draft version will be finalised and distributed by the President to all States Parties, signatories and other partners by 20 August. The document will also be made an official working paper of the Second Meeting of States Parties. It will however not replace any formal reporting from the meeting.

Finally we would like to emphasise again that we depend on the input we receive this week from all States Parties and partners, and we encourage all to refer to the Vientiane Action Plan and to the Beirut Progress Report in their thematic statements during the week.

Thank you Mr President.