

## **ESTABLISHMENT OF AN IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT UNIT (ISU). (LEBANESE)PRESIDENTS PROPOSAL**

### **Statement of Norway delivered by .....**

Thank you, Mr President,

We have listened with care and interest to the presentation made by the Lebanese Presidency. First of all we would like to express our gratitude for all the professional and dedicated work they have undertaken in fulfilling the Beirut Mandate and equally our full support for the proposals they have made and the conclusions they have reached.

We have closely followed the discussions and listened to the various views expressed during consultations over the last year on possible financing models for a future ISU of the Convention. We do think it is necessary and timely to yet again remind ourselves of some fundamental elements that cannot be ignored in these elaborations and the future decisions.

Let me first of all make the observation that our obligations as States Parties and the implementation of the Convention are not dependent on the existence of an ISU. All our obligations and the action on the ground will have to be fulfilled regardless of the existence of this unit. But, an ISU could certainly be of significant assistance to states, missions and delegations with capacity challenges, and could improve their ability to be active participants in the life of the Convention. In other words, we see an ISU as one tool to put States Parties on a more equal footing in this respect. It is, in this perspective, quite encouraging to have heard the large number of developing countries, including affected states, that have expressed their readiness to contribute financially to an ISU. It is equally regrettable that some states signal that they are not ready to share this relatively small financial burden through an assessed model, or a hybrid model in order to secure the important elements of partnership and continued cross regional representation in all aspects of the Convention.

Norway would have preferred an ISU fully financed by assessed contributions. However, in order to reach agreement on a proposal on the establishment of an ISU, we were ready to focus on the realities and explore an agreement

based on a hybrid model. The Presidents' proposed model represents a model that in our view takes into account the necessary principles we need to build a future ISU on.

Norway is ready to continue the work on an ISU on the basis of the Beirut Mandate.

But, we maintain that in our opinion, the decision we made in Beirut last year on establishing an ISU cannot be realized if we are not prepared to take the necessary responsibility and recognize that there are certain costs involved that cannot, should not, and will not be covered only by a few states. This is a collective responsibility for a common good and should be undertaken in a spirit of cooperation and solidarity.

Thank you.