

CCM 3MSP

SWITZERLAND - Statement on Transparency Measures

Mr. President

Let me thank you for the preparation of our discussion today; moreover, let me thank the delegation of Belgium for their long-standing and tireless efforts with regard to transparency measures, within both the CCM and other relevant fora. We would also like to express our appreciation to the representative of Belgium for the consultations he held among interested delegations over the past months and his leading role in the creation of the Guide on National Reporting. It will not come as a surprise that in Switzerland's view, the importance of transparency measures and particularly of a regular, accurate and detailed reporting can hardly be overestimated. Transparency is an important tool for supporting and assisting the implementation of key-aspects of the Convention.

Mr. President

During the Intersessionals in April, my delegation focused in particular on the following question "why report"? Let me summarize some of the main aspects we have highlighted as food-for-thought:

- Accurate and substantial reporting is essential in order to match needs and resources.
- Reporting should quantify and qualify remaining challenges in order to optimize international cooperation, in order to avoid delays, and in order to anticipate possible problems.
- The process of gathering information for the annual reports often serves as an effective tool on the national level that linking together stakeholders and relevant offices, ultimately helping to generate a holistic view on the status of implementation.
- Finally, reporting serves as an important indication of a State's Party's ability to live up to its obligations under the Convention.

As we emphasized in April, this list of issues is, of course, by no means exhaustive. Yet it highlights the important linkage between transparency measures and the achievement in implementing the Convention.

Mr. President

Thanks to the outstanding analytical work on reporting done by civil society, we have also heard that the quantity and quality of the content in the reports submitted vary considerably. Moreover, the rate of submissions shows delays and gaps comparable to the experience made with the implementation of transparency measures under other relevant international treaties.

My delegation has reflected on the reasons for these delays and gaps, and we would like to share with you some food-for-thought for our discussion and the ongoing enhancement of implementing Art. 7: Based on our own experience when compiling data for national reports, we have learned that, inter alia, offices and stakeholders active in fields relevant to disarmament regimes are occasionally not fully aware

- of the regimes' provisions,
- of the larger context surrounding the regimes,
- and how their work contributes to the regimes' implementation.

This leads us to the conclusion that the process of preparing a national report has to be complemented with awareness-raising activities particularly also among agencies and offices within government structures. In Switzerland, for example, relevant stakeholders who will be important sources for data collection have already been regularly informed on the national ratification process of the CCM. We believe that this should help us to get more focused information right from the beginning.

My delegation looks forward to further work on transparency measures and the implementation of Art. 7 and stands ready to contribute to the enhancement of national reporting. Simultaneously, we are looking forward to fulfilling our own reporting obligations under Art. 7 as of next year. We will certainly learn important lessons that will enable us to even better understand the challenges in this endeavor.

Thank you very much.