

Thank you Mr. president.

The Zambian delegation thanks Lebanon for the update on consultations on the establishment of an Implementation Support Unit. We also commend them for the transparent manner in which they carried out the consultations and their commitment to fulfil the mandate given by the second meeting of states parties.

Although consultations on the establishment of an ISU could not be concluded, it is evident that we all agree on the need for an ISU. However, noting that there is still no agreement on a financing model, the proposal to delay decision on the matter is a good one. Having said that, we agree with Lebanon that not reaching consensus is not a lack of support for establishing an ISU but rather a difference in state policies especially in a time of financial difficulties.

We see value in extending the mandate given by the 2MSP to enable the Norwegian Presidency to continue with consultations. We ,therefore, support the draft decision you outlined. It is important that we get the financing model right from the outset so that we do not have to go back to this debate in future.

Zambia has always expressed a preference for assessed contributions as a way of ensuring funding that is predictable and sustainable while promoting shared ownership and responsibility by all states parties. But we are prepared to show flexibility and remain engaged in a constructive manner. You can count on our support, Mr. President.

I thank you.