

## ISU

Thank you Mr. Coordinator.

Madam Chair,

allow me to thank you and your delegation for the skillful efforts made with the aim to facilitate an agreement on the structure and the financial model concerning the ISU of this convention.

Let me assure you that it is our firm intention to do our part to guarantee the full functionality of the new ISU. At the same time, it is our ambition to make sure that the extra resources - in future available - will be allocated and used in the most efficient and effective way.

As regards the financial models, we appreciated the presentation made and the detailed description of the hybrid model. We understand the merit of such a model, but we also recognize that it is not a panacea and may have some problematic implications. For instance, in the present economic juncture, additional financial obligations could discourage some countries to accede to the convention. In other words, we think that the hybrid model deserves further consideration; for this reason we will continue looking into it very carefully. However, for the time being, we confirm our strong preference for the voluntary model. Due to technical, administrative and legislative reasons, the voluntary model is the only model allowing us to fund the ISU in an prompt and appropriate way.

Madam Chair,

While we remain ready to keep on debating about the financial model, we consider the issue of the structure and the format of the new ISU still open. In particular, we would like to further examine the real needs of the Unit in terms of indispensable and vital staff, as well as any possible approach to rationalize the use of the resources in this and similar contexts. This approach reflects a common trend in today's international community. We encourage to explore feasible modalities for distinct and independent ISUs to share – at least partially - human resources. We are aware that there may be some difficulties to overcome, such as the variety of the memberships. Nevertheless, we think that the obstacles are not insuperable. In this regard, allow me to mention an instructive example of synergies among three environmental conventions, with different memberships: in 2011, the three

conferences of the parties of Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions adopted similar and parallel decisions, requesting “the executive secretary to prepare a proposal for the organization of the secretariats of the three conventions, including staffing levels, numbers and structure”. Following this request, the executive secretary put forward a proposal based “on a single integrated secretariat dedicating to serving all three conventions equally”, without jeopardizing the independent nature of each convention and their institutions.

We look forward to working with you on this and other matters.

Thank you for your kind attention