

## **Opening remarks by the Chair on General Status and Operation of the Convention (Zambia)**

Thank you Mme President.

Ladies, Gentlemen, it is an honour for me to chair this session that will focus on matters that pertain to the general status and operation of the Convention.

You will recall among decisions we collectively took in Beirut, at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the convention in which we mandated the President to, and I quote, “negotiate, in consultation with the States Parties, an agreement with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining on the hosting of an Implementation Support Unit as well as a funding model”.

I will shortly ask the President Representative to provide an update on the status and outcome of consultations to date with regards to the mandate given to the President at the 2MSP but first, if I may, I will provide a summary of activities since we last met. Thematic Coordinators will detail updates with regards to their specific areas of coordination and whilst they have been busy at their end, the Coordination Committee, consisting of all the Coordinators and the President-designate under the competent leadership of the President of the 2 Meeting of States Parties have met regularly to assess the progress of work.

Since the 2MSP, seven Coordination Committee meetings have been held in addition to one open briefing as well as one open-ended consultation seeking the views of states on the work to date. In addition, the Former, the current and the future Presidency meet on almost weekly basis to discuss, plan and organize matters of more general character and to elaborate on the road map for this year’s programme of work. Assisting them in these matters they have had the help of the Executive Coordination team led by Mme Sara Sekkenes from the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery at UNDP.

Among background documents delegates will have found the latest version of the Presidents’ working paper aimed at distilling the optimal scope, mandate, organisational setup of and financial platform for a future Implementation Support Unit for the Convention hosted by the GICHD.

The President Representative will present the potential criteria for the establishment of the Implementation Support Unit and principles for financial models as the basis for a host agreement between States Parties and the GICHD. She will provide an update on the outcomes of the broad consultations conducted thus far and elaborate on draft elements for consideration by States Parties in advance of the 3MSP that have been formulated for open-ended consultations throughout the week.

Thereafter, other possible elements for draft decisions may be presented by the President-designate.

A short presentation will also be made on the draft outline of the Oslo Progress Report..

If I may invite the President again to

[THE CHAIR/ZAMBIA INVITES THE PRESIDENT TO PROVIDE A PRESENTATION ON THE STATUS AND OUTCOME OF CONSULTATIONS TO DATE WITH REGARDS TO THE MANDATE GIVEN TO THE PRESIDENT AT THE 2MSP.]