
Mr. Coordinator,

I thank you for giving me the floor.

I would like to also express my deep gratitude to the standing Presidency for her tireless efforts in taking the CCM forward. Under her expert guidance, the 4th Meeting of States Parties in Lusaka was a resounding success and I have no doubt that this characterization will apply to her entire presidency.

The Meeting of States parties in Lusaka constituted a landmark event for the Convention. We were able to adopt key decisions, this in particular with regard to the implementation architecture of the Convention. After years of discussions, we were able to agree on the establishment of the CCM ISU.

In establishing the Unit, the 4th Meeting of States parties identified and agreed on a number of steps with the intent that the ISU be fully established and provide all the support that the CCM requires by the first day of its 1st Review Conference. The challenge ahead of us is to implement these various steps agreed jointly by all States parties in Lusaka. It is now crucial to move forward swiftly in view of the importance that the establishment of the ISU represents to the Convention and the tight schedule ahead of us, and I commend the presidency for its efforts in this area.

The MSP in Lusaka identified two initial steps to be fulfilled before the 5th Meeting of States parties, on which we have therefore to focus our immediate attention.

Firstly, the mandate was given to the presidency to decide on the **recruitment of the ISU Director** by the MSP San Jose. In this context, we are very grateful to the presidency for the documents it circulated to this intersessional meeting on this issue, which provides key considerations on the way forward. The documents include the competencies and profile required for the post of ISU Director. On that basis and in order to meet the timeline agreed in Lusaka, **we would encourage the presidency to advertise the post of as swiftly as possible**. We would also see strong value in a streamlined process, relying in so far as possible on existing expertise and available resources.

This applies in particular to the **secretariat** that is to accompany the recruitment process and support the **selection panel**. Identifying and contracting an external recruitment provider may place an undue burden on the recruitment process, both in terms of time and financially, especially when we consider that no procedure exists under the convention to cover such expenses. Here, I would suggest that we rely on proven and cost-free structures to fulfil such a function. I have for instance approached the GICHD, who after all will be hosting the future ISU, which has indicated that it would be ready to provide the required administrative support for the recruitment process. I would also like to stress that the decisions taken in Lusaka would tend to suggest that the coordination committee should act as the selection panel for the recruitment of the ISU Director.

The second step adopted to be fulfilled before the 5th Meeting of States parties relates to the conclusion of **the ISU hosting agreement with the GICHD**. States parties in Lusaka provided the presidency with the mandate and the necessary authority to finalize and sign this agreement. We are grateful to the presidency for its consultations with the GICHD on this question and we would like to encourage it to conclude this matter as rapidly as practical. Doing so will represent an important step forward in meeting the ambitious agenda adopted in Lusaka.

The decisions taken in Lusaka also provides for a **transition period** between the 5th MSP and the 1st Review Conference, during which the ISU will gradually develop its structure and activities, and the current interim solution provided by the PNUD continue to provide essential support to the next presidency. Here, let me seize this opportunity to **thank the interim ISU and the UNDP** for their important contribution in support of the Convention. Let me also stress that it will be important that the transition phase be as rational and orderly as possible, as it will be necessary that resources be made available for support to continue uninterrupted during this period.

Switzerland certainly intends to play a significant role in this respect. Switzerland is a strong supporter of the CCM and it supports the convention financially in order that it has the means according to its level of ambition. It is with this aim in mind that it provides the resources to enable the organization of the intersessional meetings or that it has repeatedly contributed financially to the interim solution. It is based on this commitment that Switzerland has also agreed to cover any deficit of the ISU until the Review Conference, when agreement on a financial model for the ISU will be decided.

I would therefor thank the Coordinators on the General Status and Operation of the Convention for their non-paper on resource mobilization and the financing of the ISU. It will be important that the ISU relies on as solid a funding model as possible for reasons of sustainability. This has so far been lacking for the interim solution. As decided by the 4th Meeting of States parties, it will be necessary to address this issue as of the next MSP with a view to finalizing the funding model at the Review Conference. In this context, the non-paper provides worthwhile and significant new ideas that will prove important in taking this issue forward.

Before concluding, I would like once again thank the standing President for all her efforts and proposals and assure it of my full confidence that under its able leadership we will be able to meet the ambition expressed in Lusaka.