

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

STATEMENT: MEETINGS AND MACHINERY

Madam President,

1. The United Kingdom is grateful for the meetings and machinery paper which presents a reduced number of options for the format, number and sequencing of meetings. Along with other States Parties, the United Kingdom wishes to see meetings that are focused, efficient, and make tangible progress towards achieving the aims of the Convention.

2. In view of this, the United Kingdom continues to support a reduced number of meetings in the form of option 2 in the paper. This option proposes holding only annual Meetings of States Parties. We remain unconvinced of the value that intersessional meetings add to the Convention, and believe that annual Meetings of States Parties would be sufficient to address any issues arising in the implementation of the Convention.

3. We are content with the suggested amendment to the start date of the President's tenure. We are also content to maintain the current structure of coordinating committees, as we recognise their valuable work.

Thank you.