

## **Intersessional Meeting 2015**

### **Transparency : initiative to reporting**

#### **Introduction by Belgian Presidency**

Pursuant to Article 7 each State Party is required to submit information within 180 days after entry into force and thereafter provide updated information annually. Through the years, SP recognized that reporting is not only an obligation but also a tool for the full implementation of the Convention and an opportunity for enhancing cooperation and assistance. They have, on numerous occasions, committed to be transparent on implementation in ways that go beyond what is minimally required under Article 7 of the Convention.

Between 1999 and 2014, the States Parties took approximately 70 decisions on reporting and the voluntary provision of information. These included the adoption of a voluntary reporting format in 1999, five subsequent amendments to it and the recognition and appreciation of efforts to develop a reporting guide in 2001. The sheer volume of these decisions and sometime contradictions between them led to confusion at the risk of no longer seeing the wood for the trees.

This is also true for the actions we have proposed in our period as coordinator for transparency measures to increase the reporting rate and the quality of the submitted information.

When starting to work on this initiative on reporting, the ISU made an overview of all decisions taken on reporting. This overview will be available on the website of the ISU and is a very rich source of information on reporting.

The purpose of this guide is to consolidate and streamline over 16 years' of decisions on reporting by providing updated and simplified advice on how States Parties may fulfil their reporting requirement. This guide is also in line with the objective of the actions we have undertaken for the last years : decrease the reporting burden of SP and improve transparency to facilitate the implementation of the Convention and the exchange in cooperation and assistance.

I will give the floor later on to Kerry who will explain more in detail the draft of the initiative on reporting. But the guide we are proposing changes our approach to reporting and exchange of information. It is our believe that it will contribute to a better understanding of the reporting process, that it will lead to the submission of quality information and decrease the reporting burden.

We would like to highlight that this document stays within existing legal obligations and commitments, i.e., it does not increases reporting obligations and commitments beyond what the States Parties have already agreed. I think it is important to mention this.

This guide is intended to assist States Parties in the fulfilment of their obligation to provide updated information annually covering the previous calendar year. It is also intended to assist States Parties in providing information pursuant to political commitments such as those contained in the Maputo Action Plan. This is a draft and we are open for all suggestions and comments that can contribute to make this guide an useful tool. A final draft will be proposed at the meeting of States parties in December for consideration and adoption.

I now give the floor to Kerry to go more in detail of the document.

Kerry, you have the floor.