

Statement by on nominating new Co-Rapporteurs

Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention (Germany and Kenya)

2 June 2008

On 9 May, Ambassador Owade of Kenya and Ambassador Brasack of Germany wrote to all States Parties concerning the established practice that sees the States Parties take decisions regarding Standing Committee Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs at Meetings of the States Parties.

You will recall that by tradition the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention undertake the task of consulting with a view to identifying a list of nominees to serve as Co-Rapporteurs.

In undertaking these consultations, past Co-Chairs have kept in mind principles that have become customary to us – principles like ensuring a regional balance, a balance between States Parties in the process of implementing key provisions of the Convention and other State Parties, and a balance between the need for rotation and the need for continuity.

On 9 May, we indicated that it is our intention to again proceed in this established manner with a view to developing a list of prospective Co-Rapporteurs for presentation to the States Parties in coming months. And, in order to enable us to do this, we asked that interested States Parties express their interest to **both** of us, in writing, by 30 May 2008.

We also highlighted that those States Parties that are interested in serving as Co-Rapporteurs between the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties and the Second Review Conference are reminded that if tradition prevails they would be making a two-year commitment to responsibilities.

That is, it has been our practice that, after serving one year as Co-Rapporteurs, States Parties are subsequently elected to serve as the Co-Chairs of their respective Standing Committees.

This practice, of course, is subject to any adjustments the States Parties may wish to make at the Second Review Conference regarding implementation mechanisms they have created, for example, the Intersessional Work Programme.

Therefore, it is our understanding that appointment of Co-Rapporteurs for 2008-2009 should be made without prejudice to the decisions that States Parties may wish to take at the Second Review Conference with respect to these Co-Rapporteurs assuming further roles in the period following the Second Review Conference.

Finally, we noted that interested States Parties should be aware that, further to the decisions of the 7MSP, Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs have an additional responsibility related to requests for extensions submitted under Article 5 of the Convention.

That is, the 7MSP mandated that the President, Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs to jointly prepare an analysis of each request submitted. Depending upon the number of requests submitted in any particular year, this mandate can pose a significant additional demand on Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs.

Since we wrote our letter to the States Parties, again requesting that interested States Parties express their interest to **both** of us, in writing, by 30 May 2008. Only 3 States Parties expressed their interest so far. We would encourage other States Parties to sincerely consider their own willingness to serve as Co-Rapporteurs and where appropriate contact us, preferably during this Intersessional Meeting.