

SC on General Status and Operation of the Convention:

5) Update on the dialogue to the facilitation and clarification of compliance

We would like to thank Canada and France for their work on this issue. Matters related to compliance are very important but, at the same time, a complicated matter.

We think that it is essential that States Parties be prepared to respond to all serious allegations of non-compliance with the core provisions of Art. 1. Inactivity would undermine the Convention. The Convention provides us with a mechanism to do so, Art. 8. However, States Parties have options at their disposal to address such concerns in a flexible and cooperative manner, before the formal process of Art. 8 would become necessary. In this respect, we agree with the point in the Canadian paper that regional approaches may be appropriate. Therefore, we do not think that this Convention needs a new mechanism for compliance matters.

We are also of the opinion that all matters related to the implementation or problems with regard to implementation can and should be discussed at Intersessional meetings in a spirit of cooperation. States Parties should feel free in this informal setting to raise whatever point or topic they think is relevant for our work. Discussion on serious allegations about non-compliance and decisions about how to address such allegations should be done at Meetings of States Parties.