

Thank you Mr. President.

At the outset, let us congratulate you for the assumption of the Presidency of this meeting.

A point we would like to touch upon under this agenda sub item is the cost of Meetings.

As per article 14 of the Convention, "*the cost of the Meetings of the States Parties, the Special Meetings of the States Parties, the Review Conferences and the Amendment Conferences shall be borne by the States Parties and States not parties to this Convention participating therein*".

To this end, the Secretariat is to compile an estimation of the costs of the following Meeting or Conference, to be approved by the current Meeting or Conference. In the opinion of this delegation, there is a legal obligation in assuring that the estimates should relate solely to the costs of meetings and should be presented in a very transparent and easily understood manner.

In spite of this, looking back at previously prepared estimates for the costs of our meetings we can notice that the cost estimates often contains expenditures the relation of which with the following year's meeting is not obvious and the information provided is insufficiently detailed to allow us to make a fair comparison.

This is the case, for instance, for the recruitment of temporary staff for several months and the cost for equipment and supplies. Another apparent anomaly is related to the cost for planning missions when the following meeting is scheduled to take place in Geneva. Moreover, there is a line entitled "Other requirements" that is not clear what kind of expenditures it refers to.

If we consider that the costs of the ISU, that performs the substantial work in providing assistance to Member States and to the Presidency, are covered by a separate budget, it is unclear what other costs should be allotted to participating States except that those strictly related to the conduct of the meetings.

Having said that, we consider it indispensable that the cost estimate we are going to approve tomorrow, as contained in document APLC/MSP.12/2012/9, should be revised in order to eliminate all those expenditures not related to the organization of next MSP, if any, and a breakdown of the line "Other requirements" should be provided.

As a last point, we deem it necessary that the final statement be sufficiently detailed so that to allow participating States to compare the actual expenditures with the estimated ones.

Mr. President, it is unfortunate that we could not raise this issue at an earlier stage but the cost estimate for the 2013 MSP was released only two days ago and the programme of work did not provide us with an opportunity to touch upon the costs of the meetings till now.

However, we are convinced that it is never too late to claim compliance with agreed rules and legal provisions, even when the time comes to pay the bill.

Thank you Mr. President