

APMBC 14MSP (2015)
SWITZERLAND

Statement on Transparency / Art. 7

Mr. President

At the outset, let me thank you for your initiative to streamline and bring greater coherence into our reporting procedures. We have taken over 70 decisions related to reporting over the last 16 years and it is more than timely that we simplify and increase the efficiency of the reporting process. Transparency is not an end in itself but a means to build confidence, to better comprehend respective challenges and to target scarce resources where they are most needed. Transparency reporting is hence not only an obligation under the convention but an effective means to contribute to the fulfilment of all obligations contained therein.

Concerning the Guide in front of us, my delegation has had the opportunity to express its views during its elaboration and we thank you, Mr. President, for the open and transparent manner in which you and your team have led this work. We are also thankful that our comments and considerations could be reflected in the draft before us.

The Guide as it stands is a very valuable tool and we encourage all States Parties to make best use of it in the elaboration of their national transparency reports. As we have mentioned on earlier occasions, the Guide is an important tool, which still needs to be complemented by an adequate reporting template, otherwise the Guide may risk not being as effective as it could be and not fully used by States Parties. We hence hope to see this template being developed very soon.

Mr. President

Let me close in thanking Mr. Lode DEWAEGHENEIRE for his tireless efforts to streamline reporting obligation not only in the framework of this convention. His dedication to improving the quality of reports for the benefit of the States Parties and the ISU is highly appreciated by my delegation. Since Mr. DEWAEGHENEIRE is leaving us to join the work of another convention of outstanding importance to my delegation and many others in this room, let me seize the opportunity to thank him again and wish him farewell.

I thank you Mr. President.