

Switzerland

Intervention during the segment on Reporting

Madam President,

The debates we had today show and re-emphasise the importance of transparency in order to achieve to the fullest extent possible the objectives of the Convention by 2025. In this context, the article 7 reports are of great importance as they contribute to ensure confidence among States Parties, advance the objectives of the Convention and increase efficiency and efficacy in implementation.

It seems to us, that none of the committees under the convention would be in a position to deliver on its mandate, if the necessary transparency by States Parties is not forthcoming. Notably, the discussion held under the segment dedicated to cooperation and assistance has shown that without an appropriate exchange of information especially related to needs and challenges the Committee's objectives cannot be achieved.

As many other States, Switzerland has this year for the first time used the new Guide to Reporting adopted at the 14th MSP. As it stands, the Guide is a very valuable tool and we encourage all States Parties to make best use of it in the elaboration of their article 6 reports. However, in order to make sure that transparency reports provide the necessary information as discussed earlier today, we advocate – as done on many other occasions – for the development of a template, which would complement the Guide. The template would facilitate the work of those nationally in charge of preparing reports, ensure that all relevant data is included in the reports and foster comparability of data.

Besides the quality of the data, we also need to emphasise that almost three quarter of the membership does not comply with its article 7 obligations. Of the 162 States Parties to the Convention only 50 have provided a report in 2016. We would hope that providing a template would contribute to making the reporting easier for States Parties and hopefully to increasing the number of States complying with article 7.

I thank you, Madam President.