

STATEMENT OF SLOVENIA

5 December 2013

(agenda item 13)

Mr President,

Thank you for giving me the floor. First of all, my delegation would like to thank Belgium for its efforts and all work done regarding the issue of national reporting in its capacity of coordinator for Article VII issues

We believe that national reports according to the Article VII of the Convention are very important. National reports that we send every year to UNODA demonstrate our determination and level of commitment for real implementation of the Convention. National reports are also informing us what is going on the ground. In Slovenia, we are not satisfied with the participation of States Parties in national reporting. This year 70 States Parties failed to provide their national reports. This number has not been changed significantly for several years. Lack of national reports can create false impression that Parties are less interested in the Convention. Lack of national reporting is thus undermining the integrity and credibility of the Convention.

However this picture is not complete. In this context, it is worth to note and commend the two countries not being States Parties to the Convention – Morocco and Palestine – who despite of that provided their respective national reports. We would encourage them to continue this practice and invite other interested countries, like Azerbaijan, to consider providing national reports.

Unfortunately, our Convention is not alone in witnessing "reporting fatigue." Poor national reporting could be seen in the framework of other international conventions, agreements and instruments in the field of disarmament and nonproliferation. This is definitely not positive development. We are convinced that we can reverse this trend and increase the reporting on the implementation of the Convention – qualitatively and quantitatively. We would appeal all States Parties that are lagging behind with national reporting, to provide at least last national report as soon as possible.

In this context, Slovenia supports proposal of Belgium to discuss this issue at the next Review conference. In the framework of contact group on Article VII that met yesterday, we heard some good proposals in this regard, including the idea on establishing special body that would be tasked with analysing national reports. We look forward for that discussion and expect concrete decision that we should adopt in Maputo.

I thank you Mr President