

## **Committee on Cooperation and Assistance**

Japan has the pleasure of Chairing the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance, working together with the Netherlands, Sudan and Thailand in this regard.

As you can appreciate, the Oslo Action Plan contains six important actions which commit both affected States and States in a position to provide assistance to strengthen implementation.

The Oslo Action Plan commits affected States to:

- Develop resource mobilisation plans and use all mechanisms within the Convention to disseminate information on challenges and requirements for assistance, including through their annual Article 7 transparency reports and by taking advantage of the individualised approach; and to
- Strengthen national coordination including by ensuring regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders on progress, challenges and support for implementation of their obligations under the Convention. And, where relevant, establish an appropriate national platform for regular dialogue among all stakeholders.

The Oslo Action Plan also requests donor countries to:

- Provide assistance to States Parties in the implementation of their obligations under the Convention; and to
- Coordinate their support for the effective implementation of Convention obligations by affected States Parties, where possible using existing mechanisms.

The Oslo Action Plan further request that all States Parties:

- Do their utmost to commit the resources needed to meet Convention obligations as soon as possible and explore all possible alternative and/or innovative sources; and
- Explore opportunities for cooperation,(international, regional and bilateral, cooperation between affected States Parties or South-to-South) including making mutually supporting clearance commitments in border areas.

As with other areas of the Oslo Action Plan, there are several indicators for each of these Actions.

Given the importance of Cooperation and Assistance to the successful implementation of the Convention, we want to hear from you on your efforts to implement these important commitments of the Oslo Action Plan.

In this regard, we would ask that your Article 7 Reports contain detailed information on matters related to cooperation and assistance.

Like other Committee Chairs mentioned earlier, we also want to hear about your cooperation and assistance challenges and your outstanding requirements for assistance.

Dear Colleagues, apart from being an obligation under the treaty it is our firm conviction that transparency and the sharing of information through your Article 7 Report and through other means such as the individualized approach is essential.

For those States Parties without outstanding commitments under the Convention it is just a question of ticking a few boxes and submitting the report.

Should you need any additional information on how to best report on cooperation and assistance please do not hesitate to reach out to the Committee or to the ISU for support.

We look forward to working with all of you in the lead up to the intersessional meetings in June and on the road to the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties.

Thank you.