

*Statement by Belarus
on item 3 “Compliance and implementation”*

Madame Chair,

We would like to use this opportunity and to express concern about the new working methods of the Committee since September 2017.

In particular, this concerns the Committee’s decision to unprecedentedly reopen and revise the list of questions regarding the Belarusian NPP formulated earlier by the Committee itself on the basis of so-called remaining issues of disagreement between Lithuania and Belarus.

We would like to underline that at its ad-hoc session in June 2017 the Committee officially decided to remove the first and the fifth questions from the list of the technical and scientific questions regarding the Belarusian NPP for the reason that it had found them properly answered. Committee’s decision to delete the first and fifth questions from the list was reported by its Chair to the 7th MOP and reflected in the MOP report.

The decision of the Committee to reopen the questions and to broaden their scope is not in line with the spirit of the compliance review procedure and Committee’s operating rules and disrupts the continuity and credibility in its work.

In our view such a precedent in the Committee’s work compromises the compliance review mechanism.

We hope the Committee restores the continuity in its work and in the future refrains from action that may be seen as biased and prevents any concerns in its objectivity.

For its part, Belarus confirms its readiness to further engage with the Committee on the issues arising from its obligations under the Convention and expresses its hope for continued open and transparent communication and collaboration.

Thank you.