

Statements by Switzerland

Agenda item 7 - Preparations for the MOP

(a) Future Work Programme

Swiss Position

We support the proposed work programme.

Speaking note

Switzerland welcomes the proposed work programme for 2022-2025. We agree with the strengthening of capacity building, awareness-raising and promotion by the introduction of advisory assistance. We further welcome the proposed new mechanism under the work area on the compliance mechanism and the strengthening of the legal support to this work area. Compliance with the Convention is one of the main work areas which is crucial in order to allow each pillar of the Convention to unfold effect. The programme, therefore, is ambitious as it should be.

However, as the work programme suggests, we **should take into consideration the available resources**: Especially, the establishment of a new rapid response mechanism to address the harassment of environmental defenders requests a lot resources by the bureau respectively the compliance committee or a new rapporteur in order to be effective. We believe that the possibility to discuss about alternative options of financial arrangements shall remain open.

(b) Future Strategic Plan

Swiss Position

We support the draft strategic plan for 2022-2030.

Speaking Note

Switzerland welcomes the proposed strategic plan 2022-2030. We agree with the adjusted vision and mission, in particular concerning the role of the Convention in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the commitment to ensuring the protection of environmental defenders.

(d) Financial arrangements

Swiss Position

We support Option C [mandatory contributions] of the draft elements of possible financial arrangements.

Speaking note – Depending on discussion

First, Switzerland thanks the Secretariat for its efforts to cope well with the difficult budgetary situation. For Switzerland the predictability and stability of financial means to achieve the implementation of the programme of work is crucial. We believe, that the current scheme of contributions, based on voluntary support cannot guarantee the implementation of all the activities under the work programme, not even the core activities even when those are prioritized.

In our view the best arrangement based on equitable sharing of burden and sound financial management would be a mandatory scheme of contributions, based on the adjusted UN scale of assessment. It offers the necessary stability, predictability and equitable funding of the activities under the work programme of 2022-2025 that are not covered by UN regular budget.

Switzerland is open to discuss the modalities of such a scheme that should be decided upon by the Meeting of the Parties.