

## **SBI Closing Plenary on Multilateral Assessment**

Sunday, June 15<sup>th</sup>

### ***Speaking note for the SBI chair***

- Distinguished delegates, as you may **recall**, during the Opening Plenary of the SBI session, I informed Parties that I would conduct consultations with interested Parties to share my views on how to organize the multilateral assessment (MA) working group session during SBI 41 in Lima and seek further guidance from Parties.
- The **bilateral consultations** that I held with groups of Parties during this session confirmed that Parties are in general **supportive** of my proposed approach to organizing the MA working group sessions.
- The consultations also helped build **common understandings** of the elements of the MA working group sessions and of their operationalization, which is key to ensuring a successful launch of MA in Lima. The outcome of the consultations will serve as a **basis** for further advancing the preparations for the MA in Lima.
- As discussed during the consultations, the **first round of MA** is planned to be launched in **Lima** on Saturday, the 6<sup>th</sup> of December, following the completion of work and the adoption of all conclusions on the substantive issues from the SBI agenda during the first part of the SBI closing plenary meeting on Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> of December.
- After adoption of all conclusions, I will invite Parties and group of Parties, as well as observers, to deliver their general closing statements. The closing SBI plenary meeting will then be **suspended** to launch the MA working group session. The MA working group session is planned then to take place on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> December and

Monday, 8 December, with a possibility to extend in the course of the morning of Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> December. After the completion of the working group session, the SBI is planned to briefly **resume its closing plenary** meeting to formally close its 41<sup>st</sup> session..

- I would like to seek your support and cooperation in ensuring that all the other SBI agenda items be concluded by the SBI closing plenary planned for Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> December, and no negotiation would continue in parallel with the MA working group session. This will ensure sufficient time and Party representation for the MA session.
- A subsequent MA working group session is planned to **be held** in June 2015 during SBI 42, aiming to complete the MA of all the remaining Annex I Parties.
- I will be honored to chair the MA working group sessions during my term as SBI Chair, and may call upon other members of the SBI Bureau to assist me in doing so.
- **Other operational and procedural issues** covered during the consultations included the format and duration of the working group session; representation of Parties under MA; placement of speakers; and concluding statements by Parties under MA. My proposed approach on these issues, supported by Parties, will be outlined in the formal **notification** on MA sent by the secretariat to Parties in August this year.
- This formal notification will also provide important **guidance** to Parties on their contribution and access to information required for the preparation of the MA working group session in Lima. This includes the key milestones and timeline for the **questions and answers** process envisaged in decision 2/CP.17 as part of the MA, their online application, the **scope** of questions to Parties under MA, and access to

all related **documents**. The list of Parties that will undergo MA in Lima is also planned to be presented in this formal notification.

- Dear delegates, I would like to highlight that the MA is a brand new process and an important process for the future as Parties are advancing with the implementation of the Convention. The consultations on the MA during this SBI session also offered me the opportunity to engage with Parties on this important matter and I am extremely satisfied with the support received and the progress made. I trust that Parties will continue to provide me, and the SBI, the necessary support to ensure a successful launch of the MA in Lima.
- Thank you.