

SBI 46, item 16 (d)

Implementation of the Headquarters Agreement

Speaking notes for the Executive Secretary

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,

Under this agenda item, Parties have been considering three aspects of arrangements with the host country of the secretariat:

- the overall arrangements for delegations, the secretariat and its staff;
- the office accommodation of the secretariat;
- and the conference facilities in Bonn to hold sessions of UNFCCC bodies and other UNFCCC meetings and events.

At SB 42 in 2015, you requested me to report to you at this session, and I am pleased to be able to report to that excellent progress has been made on all aspects.

I trust you will agree that delegations enjoy necessary travel facilities, privileges and immunities to conduct their work in Bonn. I can confirm that the secretariat as an organization, as well as its staff and their families are awarded adequate treatment. Open issues are being addressed constructively.

Our long-term aspiration of accommodating the secretariat in one place is becoming reality, slowly but surely. In October last year, I have participated in laying the corner stone of the new building that will allow

us to finally bring together all secretariat staff on the UN Campus. You can see the construction site right next to the World Conference Centre, and will be able to watch the building rise over the next years. We are planning to move in before the end of 2020.

As for the conference facilities, I am sure we all agree that the opening of the expanded WCCB has been a milestone in implementing the COP decisions to equip Bonn, as the seat of the secretariat, to serve as the meeting hub for UNFCCC events. Since its inauguration two years ago, the WCCB has hosted two sessions of the subsidiary bodies – the present 46th sessions being the third one already, two separate sessions of Ad Hoc Working Groups, and several smaller UNFCCC events. All of these have been made possible by the host government and host city, who have adopted the request by the SBI to practically facilitate the use of the World Conference Center Bonn and have provided very generous financial support.

The support by the host authorities is continuing. Preparations for the 23rd sessions of the COP, CMP and CMA this coming November are advancing swiftly. The German Ministries of the Environment and of Foreign Affairs, the City of Bonn, and numerous other national and local authorities, through the established consultative and cooperative fora I mentioned, are extending every imaginable assistance to make the conference a success and a positive experience for participants in all aspects.

For all of this, I wish to thank our hosts.