

Regional Group Speaking Notes for Nov. 2009

Approach to the Meeting of States Parties

- There has been considerable interest in how we get from where we are, to a successful outcome for the MSP.
- I intend to follow past precedents and approaches used by previous chairs.
- It will be important that we continue to work transparently - all States Parties should know where we are at all times, and what the views are of other States Parties – we need you to tell us what those views are.
- I would like to stress that in accordance with the past MSPs we will be identifying common understandings, not negotiating new commitments.
- I believe the synthesis paper is a useful starting point for our work at the MSP – I am interested to know what you liked and what you did not.
- I am sure that my approach provides opportunities for all States Parties to raise the issues they want to talk about – for example there is time set aside to consider both existing needs and hurdles to meeting those needs.
- I have been prompted to remind you of Paragraph 54 of Final Document of 6th Review Conference, which: encouraged States Parties to provide appropriate information on how Article X is being implemented to the ISU, and requested the ISU to collate the information for States Parties. The MSP would provide a useful vehicle to make such reports.

Programme of Work

- Once again, it is my intention to follow past precedents.
- The Provisional Programme of Work (available at the front of this room and on the BWC website) is substantively the same as the last few years, we have simply substituted in this years topic.
- As you can see, that means that almost all of our working time has been devoted to the topic at hand.
- You will also see that I have listed some sub-topics – these correspond with the structure of the synthesis paper that I circulated in October.
- Of course, this is your meeting, so I know that as States Parties, you will need to retain the flexibility to address all the various areas you may wish to cover.
- I believe that this programme provides opportunities to discuss all of the various issues that have been brought to my attention so far – but I am interested in hearing more feedback if you have further views.
- I would also like to point out that time has also been set aside to fulfil mandated reporting requirements by both the ISU, on their activities this year, and myself, on our collective universalization efforts.

An Action-Based Outcome

- Throughout the year, I have repeatedly stressed the importance of actually building capacity to deal with disease.
- I am keen to ensure that we do not focus solely on a final document but continue to work towards and action-based outcome as well.

- We will need to provide an opportunity for those in need of assistance, to describe the sorts of capacity they are seeking.
- I would like to encourage States Parties in this position, to make use of the general statements to ensure their needs are well advertised to potential partners.
- Equally, we will need to find a way to consolidate the provision of assistance.
- I encourage all States Parties to consider what assistance they can provide to their neighbours, region or internationally before the MSP – we will certainly want to hear about this.
- I am planning to develop the background document from the MX that lists contact details for possible sources of assistance.
- This document was released in provisional form for the MX and I intend to add information to it during course of the MSP and release a final version before the end of the meeting.
- I would like to encourage all those States Parties that might be able to provide assistance, to inform the ISU of relevant contact details.
- This document will be an important output in its own right and, I believe, a useful tool for those looking to strengthen their national mechanisms to deal with disease in the future.

Universalization

- As I have mentioned, I will be making a report, in accordance with my mandate, on our collective universalization efforts this year.
- Relevant activities undertaken by both the ISU and myself will be included, as will all details of efforts undertaken by States Parties that have been made available to me over the course of the year.
- If States Parties have carried out relevant initiatives of which they have not informed me, I will open up the floor for you to describe what you have done, after I have introduced my report.
- I encourage you all to check whether you have been carrying out demarches, or other activities, since the 2008 MSP.

CBMs

- I have noted that participation in the CBMs seems to be levelling off.
 - I would encourage those that have not done so yet, to make a submission.
 - It is still not too late to submit 2009 reports.
 - We will have an opportunity to discuss this situation more fully following the presentation of the ISU report, which will, as usual, provide summary details of submissions this year.
 - I would also like to take this opportunity to recall that at the start of the year, I outlined a plan to ensure that there was a guide to help States Parties participate in the CBMs.
 - I am happy to be able to report that the first version of this guide will be formally launched at the MSP, thanks to the work of the European Union Joint Action and the ISU.
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