

5th meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs

Geneva, 23 and 24 November 2016

Item 7. Preparations for the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (b) Substantive preparations (iii) Financial arrangements under the Protocol

Statement by Switzerland:

At the second session of the Meeting of the Parties the delegations of Norway and Switzerland highlighted the discrepancy between the intention to ensure stable and predictable funding and the actual functioning of the current voluntary scheme. As stated in section D of the Report of the Meeting of the Parties on its second session a compromise text on financial arrangements was agreed. The revised text maintained the interim voluntary scheme of contributions, but mandated the Bureau and the Working Group of the Parties to explore in the next intersessional period options for more predictable, stable and equitably shared funding. It was also agreed that the Meeting of the Parties would revisit the question of the funding scheme again at its third session.

Switzerland still prefers the introduction of a mandatory scheme of contributions. Switzerland also recognizes that there are differing positions regarding the matter. However, Switzerland likes to highlight that the continuation of a voluntary scheme carries the risk of impeding a stable functioning of the Secretariat and the implementation of significant activities under the work program such as capacity building. Moreover, the continuation of the voluntary scheme most likely results in unstable and inequitably shared funding. Therefore, we propose to further elaborate on options for more binding, stable and equitable shared financial arrangements. A formal decision on the scheme of contributions should then be taken by the Meeting of the Parties at its third session.