

Outcome of the Review of the first Self-Assessments and Action Plans under the Strategic Approach

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- The Strategic Approach with indicators and criteria provides an instrument for for countries to identify shortcomings and challenges in their implementation of the Convention. It shall not be considered as an external tool imposed on them, but as a way to measure their own level of implementation and a stimulus for progress.
- CoP 6 decided that countries under the Assistance Programme should provide the first self-assessments applying the indicators and criteria by end of September 2011 and to prepare action plans based on the findings from the assessments by end of February 2012.
- CoP 6 requested the Bureau and WGI to monitor compliance with the requirements and to report at CoP 7.
- Training workshop in Bratislava May 2011 in order to prepare for an adequate and correct follow up of the self-assessment requirement. Detailed presentations given on how to perform and present the assessments.



- By the deadline 10 out of 15 committed countries had provided the self-evaluation
- Countries not complying: Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan
- In light of the short time available for the review of the self-assessments received and provision of feedback to countries, the Bureau and WGI decided on an interim model for undertaking the work: An open ended core group with representatives from both bodies was established under leadership of chair WGI
- The self-assessments turned out to be of unsatisfactory quality, with a few exceptions (Serbia, Croatia)
- Prevailing deficiencies: lack of understanding of the mechanism, failing to address indicator by indicator, lack of understanding of the working areas of the Convention, incomplete descriptions and evaluations of shortcomings and challenges.



- Letters were subsequently sent to countries with feedback and specific suggestions on how to improve the self-assessments. New, updated versions should be sent to the secretariat as soon as possible and preferably before sending the action plans
- With this situation delays in submission of action plans had to be expected, and only Albania, Croatia, Serbia and the FYR Macedonia have submitted such plans
- Of countries requested to send a second version of the self-assessment, only Belarus has sent a revised version, but has not presented an action plan.

