

03 August 2017

English only

Seventh session

Vienna, 6-10 November 2017

Meeting of the Extended Bureau on 21 June 2017

1. A meeting of the Extended Bureau was held on 21 June 2017 in the margins of the 8th session of the Implementation Review Group.
2. The secretariat provided a briefing on the progress made in the preparation of the seventh session of the Conference of the States Parties, to be held from 6 to 10 November 2017 at the seat of the United Nations in Vienna. The organization of the seventh session of the Conference presented a number of logistical and financial challenges, including the limited seating capacity in the M building, the limited registration capacities of the Vienna International Center and the lack of funding for the participation of least developed countries. At the time of the meeting, the secretariat had not received any formal pledge for financial resources in this regard.
3. Furthermore, the extended Bureau was reminded that the Conference at its sixth session had not adopted the draft agenda for the upcoming seventh session. Informal consultations were necessary to facilitate an agreement on the agenda well before the session. It was noted that in line with past practice, the incoming chair might wish to take this task forward.
4. The Extended Bureau was provided with an update on the funding situation of the Implementation Review Mechanism. The Mechanism still suffered a considerable shortfall for its second cycle which endangered its future operation. Depending on decisions taken by the General Assembly on the regular budget for the biennium 2018-2019, approximately US\$ 10 million would need to be raised from voluntary contributions over the entire second cycle of the Mechanism. The Extended Bureau expressed its concern with regard to the financial situation of the Implementation Review Mechanism and ensured the secretariat of its support with regard to future actions to improve the situation, as may be required.
5. The Extended Bureau decided that it was competent to discuss the schedule of meetings of the Implementation Review Group and the other subsidiary bodies established by the Conference. The Extended Bureau further decided that it would take the matter up in a separate meeting.

