

## **Group B - Oral Report**

- On behalf of H.E. Ambassador Mohamed El Molla and myself, I have the honor to provide a short report on the work of Group B, which was mandated to discuss cluster 8 and 9 of chapter II of the consolidated negotiating document. Group B held four open-ended meetings during the fourth session of the Ad Hoc Committee on 12, 13, 17 and 18 January 2023. In addition, the co-facilitators held several bilateral meetings with interested delegations and an online meeting with multi-stakeholders.
- In line with the methodology proposed by the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee for the fourth and fifth sessions, the aim of the work of this informal group was to better understand the different views of Member States and to identify and explore possible options for compromise with a view to overcoming divergences.
- The atmosphere during our meetings was constructive and delegations were actively engaged. Many delegations delivered statements and expressed their views. Some delegations also submitted specific text proposals.
- Different views were expressed on the provisions of both clusters 8 and 9, ranging from the request for deletion of the provisions in those clusters, to proposals for the strengthening and expansion of the provisions.
- Proposals were made by several delegations relating to the provisions in clusters 8 and 9, seeking to modify existing language or adding new provisions to those clusters. Such proposals were made by Belarus, China, Egypt, Eritrea, Iran, Pakistan and the Philippines.

- On the other hand, Mexico and South Africa made proposals on the possible way forward.
- All written proposals have been shared with delegations and will also be made available on the website of the Ad Hoc Committee.
- In addition, several proposals were discussed in the course of the consultations, in particular:
  - To include a provision on the possibility of future Protocols to the Convention
  - The possibility of including the concept of serious crimes, as utilized in the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, within the scope of the Convention
  - The possibility of including a reference in the preamble to certain forms of crime
  - The extension of cooperation regarding the sharing of electronic evidence beyond the crimes listed in chapter II.
- The informal discussions showed that the divergence of views on the provisions in these Clusters persist and that further work is necessary.
- In this regard, we are of the view that the options put forward to overcome these divergences deserve to be further explored in the next weeks and months, and we remain optimistic about the potential for reaching consensus on how to address the issues included in clusters 8 and 9.
- We would like to thank all delegations for their active participation and important contributions and stand ready to continue to support the Chair and the Ad Hoc Committee to make progress on these issues.

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