



Working Group on International Cooperation, 8 July 2020

Agenda Item 1 : Organizational matters

**Statement by Switzerland**

Thank you for giving me the floor Mr. Chair,

Since it is the first time in this meeting that my delegation is taking the floor, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you Tom, for chairing this meeting again and also to thank our distinguished delegates for the very interesting presentations and I would also like to thank the secretariat for preparing the two comprehensive and very helpful background papers for this meeting.

With regard to agenda item 1 our delegation would like to make the following comment: Switzerland supports necessary temporary adaptations of working methods to allow intergovernmental organs of the UN to debate and take decisions without physical meetings (by consensus or vote). These adaptations should be based on, and be in line with, existing rules of procedure and take into account the principles of transparency and inclusiveness. They should not create any additional obstacles to the decision making process not foreseen in the rules of procedure. And they especially should not create new costs – the financial possibilities should be taken into consideration.

As a compromise or pragmatic solution to this issue a possibility could be that recommendations are discussed virtually here on an expert level, which should be the aim of the Working Group and not discussing procedures. Recommendations, should there be any, could be then be circulated in silence procedures. And should really any Member State object and break the silence procedure, last possibility could indeed be a physical meeting of 1 representative per Member State in the VIC, as practiced before in other UN bodies as well. (*Anm.: IAEA or now CTBTO*).

Thank you Mr. Chair