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RÉSUMÉ SUCCINCT DE LA RÉUNION DU 5 AVRIL 2013 DU GROUPE DE TRAVAIL SUR L'ASSISTANCE TECHNIQUE

(DISPONIBLE EN ANGLAIS UNIQUEMENT)

soumis par la Présidente du Groupe de travail

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BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE 5 APRIL 2013 MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WORKING GROUP

submitted by the Chair of the Working Group

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BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE 5 APRIL 2013 MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WORKING GROUP

It was my distinct honour to chair the Technical Assistance Working Group. I want to thank and to recognise the work of the Permanent Bureau and all the countries that participated and made the meeting on 5 April 2013 so successful. We were fortunate to have a proposed draft for a Strategic Framework from Canada, Australia and Switzerland which formed the basis of our discussion.

I am pleased to make this brief report to Council and to advise Council that our discussions resulted in an agreed-upon framework for the provision by the Permanent Bureau of certain post-Convention / technical assistance / non-normative services. I will give you the highlights of our discussion now and assure Council that a written report for Council's consideration will be provided in the near future.

1. The Permanent Bureau's provision of post-Convention services, including those customised to support a particular State or group of States is not new but has been on-going and endorsed by Council for at least a decade.

2. We also are cognizant that it is difficult, if not impossible, to clearly differentiate certain post-Convention services from what might be considered technical assistance. As such, the best way to describe the undertakings by the Permanent Bureau might be in the context of either long-term or short-term projects and / or the amount of resources required for such projects. The Working Group therefore recognised the need for flexibility with how this work is defined. It is important to keep in mind that post-Convention services and technical assistance can only be provided where the Permanent Bureau has the capacity and resources to respond to a request, taking into account the Conference's work programme.

3. We discussed strategic objectives that will be elaborated in the written draft report. Below are some of the criteria, priorities and accountability measures that will allow implementation of the strategic objectives.

a) Selection Criteria: In general, the request for services must be within the competence of the Permanent Bureau, which is either the only or the best-placed entity to provide the service. In addition, where relevant, conditions in the requesting State are favourable for the effective provision of services and there is the expectation of active co-operation. These are baseline criteria for the provision of services or assistance.

b) Prioritisation: in general, listed in no particular order, the following criteria are among those that should be considered when prioritising different requests: the urgency of the request; the possibility of the Permanent Bureau to provide cost-effective assistance; the requesting State is a Member of the Conference or has a strong interest in becoming a Member; the requesting State is a party to the relevant Convention or has a strong interest in becoming a party. Further, there is the expectation of a lasting and substantive impact on the recipient State and / or the region.

c) Accountability: The Permanent Bureau has consistently reported to Council annually on its provision of assistance. However, the format will be revised and reported independently, highlighting long-term versus short-term projects. The longer-term projects will also include a more detailed explanation of the decision of the Permanent Bureau to undertake the project and the progress made toward reaching defined goals and milestones. Reports to Council must be transparent and timely. The projects will be presented in priority order.

The modified Framework will provide the basis for the written report and future work by the Working Group.