

The European Union and its Members States would like to thank the Secretariat for issuing document 2/7 on work undertaken by the Secretariat in the intersessional period, the budget expenditure and the provisional workplan. We find this document to be a good basis for our discussions.

We would like to thank all those who have contributed generously to support the work of the Secretariat and to support the ad hoc OEWG.

The EU and its Member States note that the programme of work and budget could benefit from being more transparent.

The EU and its Member States consider that due to the limited time for the OEWG process, it is necessary to agree on a mandate to start intersessional work ahead of OEWG3. We consider that the intersessional work, including by the Secretariat must relate to the gaps and needs identified during the session. We are happy to further discuss this matter during this week taking into account the outcomes of the discussion.

We are ready to actively engage in the discussions on budget and intersessional work in a contact group or an informal setting.

Thank you, Madam Chair.