



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Federal Department of the Environment,
Transport, Energy and Communications DETEC

Federal Office for the Environment FOEN
International Affairs Division

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Switzerland – Agenda and PoW (Agenda item 2)

Excellencies, dear colleagues. We would sincerely thank for the opportunity we have been given with this expert group to discuss the framework of international env. governance and how to strengthen it and discuss how we can best respond to the actual gaps there are in international env. governance. I thank the Acting Executive Director for the intervention that asked for exploring the gaps with from all angles on all levels. Thanks to the Secretariat for preparing the report as a starting point for our discussions.

We would like to draw the attention of the chairs, the member states and the secretariat to the question of the structure and outcome of this first substantive session and beyond. In the preparatory meeting in September of last year we have argued strongly for accounting for human and financial resources and to have concrete and specific outcome at each meeting leading from one to another before reaching the mandate in May at the last session.

In this light, we recommend the following:

- To agenda item 5, that is the consideration of the report, must be devoted adequate time. We do not want to negotiate the report. We recommend, however, to consider the report following its structure, chapter by chapter. In contrast to the general statements the consideration of the report shall allow the chairs to gather more focused and thematic feedback for the discussions to follow.

- Based on the specific feedback from the member states on the chapters, the co-chairs in support of the secretariat are expected to synthesize these feedbacks into a **non-paper for consideration at the next session of this group**. The non-paper shall as well lay out the **potential response options to address the most important gaps identified by the member states in this session**. The synthesis of the feedback and the response options will then serve as a basis for deliberations during the second session.

Thank you chairs, for your consideration and the feedback on this proposal.