Mr. Chairperson,

I join other delegates in appreciating the efforts made and the informal meetings organized by distinguished ambassadors of Costa Rica and Germany and the Technical Secretariat on engagement with civil society. My delegation welcomes further engagement with industry associations and academic institutions for better implementation of the Convention. We also support a stronger and balanced participation of the NGOs in the Conferences of States Parties.

Although the responsibility of the implementation of the CWC lies with the States Parties and the Convention confers no status to the NGOs, the NGOs have been participating in the sessions of the CSP according to its Rule of Procedure and the Guidelines adopted by the Third Review Conference. We believe that the Guidelines have worked properly and a high percentage of the applicant NGOs with relevant interests and activities to the object and purpose of the Convention, have been allowed to participate in our major events.

During the Informal meetings, concerns were raised on the long accreditation process faced by some NGOs. My delegation stands ready to consider any proposals to ease and expedite the application and vetting procedures. We hope that the current informal consultation will bear satisfactory results for all States Parties and present an inspiring example of cooperation and consensus.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson.