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**REPORT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ROBERT MIKULAK
FACILITATOR FOR CHEMICAL INDUSTRY AND OTHER ARTICLE VI ISSUES**

Thank you, Mr Vice-Chairman for giving me the floor.

Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General,

As the facilitator of the Chemical Industry and Other Article VI issues, I would like to express my appreciation to the Italian Ambassador, Francesco Azzarello, and his delegation for all of their work on these important issues. As Ambassador Azzarello just informed this Council, the industry cluster convened an informal discussion on 6 October, during which delegations heard informative briefings from three different branches within the Secretariat's Verification Division.

In the first briefing, my co-facilitator in the industry cluster, Mr Aladdin Al Hmedawi, presented a status update about the Secure Information Exchange Project. We will hear the details about his briefing in Mr Al Hmedawi's report to the Council today.

In yesterday's industry cluster delegations also received a briefing from the Industry Verification Branch that highlighted the Secretariat's recent study into ways to potentially reduce the frequency of discrepancies in the number of plants declared in States Parties' industry declarations. As we heard during the briefing, in 2013, 41% of all industry inspections reported a discrepancy in the number of plants declared, which underscores the importance for the Secretariat and States Parties to address this issue.

Yesterday's final briefing was delivered by the Head of the Declaration Branch, who presented about the Secretariat's success in recent years in improving the timely submission of industry declarations. The briefing also highlighted the considerable increase over the last six years in the number of States Parties submitting declarations using the Electronic Declaration Tool for National Authorities, or EDNA. Lastly, the briefing explained improvements made by the Secretariat over the last three years in reducing the number of States Parties with repeated transfer discrepancies, and proposed further actions by States Parties and the Secretariat to continue this progress.

I would like to request this report to be considered as an official document of this session of the Council.

Thank you.

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