An exchange platform for voluntary transparency exercises: Terms of reference
From Peer reviews to Platform for voluntary transparency exercises

- Proposal of a BTWC « peer review mechanism » submitted by France in 2011 during the 7th review conference (BWC/CONF.VII/WP.28)

- 3 main objectives:
  - Reinforcing national implementation of the Convention
  - Enhancing confidence in compliance through transparency
  - Enhancing international cooperation

- A voluntary mechanism respecting States’s sovereignty
A proposal that progressively gained momentum

- France conducted a **pilot** peer review exercise in December 2013 in order to
  - demonstrate the feasibility of a peer review mechanism under the BTWC
  - dispel possible concerns
- Since 2011, **15 countries have taken the initiative to host a transparency exercise.** 35 countries involved from all regional groups
- **This positive dynamic must be sustained**
What are voluntary transparency exercises?

- Voluntary transparency exercises are not aimed at replacing the verification protocol that was not adopted in 2001.
- Voluntary transparency exercises must be seen as confidence-building measures aimed at:
  - Improving national implementation of the Convention
  - Improving confidence, share best practices and experiences on national implementation
  - Pave the way and to greater international, regional and bilateral cooperation
Establish an exchange platform

- France proposes to create an exchange platform for voluntary transparency exercises in order to:
  - **Support** national implementation efforts
  - **Exchange** information and best practices
  - Develop a **compendium** of all transparency exercises
  - Identify possible needs for assistance

- A **flexible** framework for interested States
Terms of reference

- The exchange Platform gathers every year in a meeting, open to all States Parties, on the margins of MX3
- Proceedings of the yearly exchange Platform are sustained by the ISU
- The Implementation Support Unit is in charge of the administration of an online portal of the Platform