



**Statement of the Kingdom of the Netherlands  
8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties of the Convention on Cluster  
Munitions, agenda item 8. Financial status of the  
Convention  
Geneva, 5 September 2018**

Mr. President,

We would like to thank UNODA for all their work regarding the financial status of the Convention, including regarding the improved website. Transparency is indeed very important.

A solid financial basis is essential for the functioning of the Convention and its ISU. The Netherlands is therefore pleased that 'the financial status of the Convention' has again been taken up as a separate item on the agenda and we would be keen to see that practice continued.

We note that the finances of the ISU are discussed elsewhere. We are pleased to see the ISU functioning well, also in terms of financial management. As we stated yesterday, the Netherlands has been contributing to this important work through our multi-annual voluntary contribution of €50.000,- per year.

Concerning the finances of the Conferences and hence the balance sheet we are looking at now, we would like to urge all countries that still have outstanding dues to pay them in full and on time. We are concerned by the net negative cash balance for closed conferences of \$20,027.76. We would like to ask how are we going to recover this negative balance.

The negative cash balance amounts to 9% of the budget which is proposed for next year. This may mean that we commence the new financial cycle with a budget gap of at least 9%, depending on what is yet to be received from 2017 and 2018.

We request the incoming president of the CCM, in cooperation with the Coordination Committee, to investigate this issue and deliver a report on it at the next MSP, including a proposal for mitigating measures. We are keen to submit a language proposal for the final report on this issue.

To conclude, we are pleased to note that the payment discipline of those States Parties that usually do meet their financial obligations increased over the last year. We wish to reiterate that it is indeed important that payment obligations are met in time in order to enable us to hold the conferences as planned, as was elaborated upon by UNODA.

Thank you, Mr. President