



**Sixth Meeting of the States Parties of the
Convention on Cluster Munitions**
Geneva, 5-7 September 2016

Statement by Dr. Palma D'Ambrosio
Deputy Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament

Agenda item 9(b)

Mr. President,

First of all, let me commend you for the level of ambition you showed in promoting the adoption of a Political Declaration in the context of an annual meeting of States Parties. Italy fully subscribed to the Dubrovnik Declaration, and we hope that we will be able to confirm and strengthen this important political commitment here in Geneva, just one year later.

Mr. President,

I have asked for the floor under this agenda item to seek for some clarifications concerning the expected costs for the 2017 MSP.

We are ready to support the document you are submitting. However, as already pointed out by the UK Delegation yesterday, it is unclear why the estimated costs for the 7th MSP do not include those of the activities of the Implementation Support Unit relating to the organization of the meeting.

In our understanding, paragraph 7(a) of the financial procedures we adopted in Dubrovnik – contained in Annex V of the Outcome Document of the Review Conference – provides that 40% of the ISU budget will be constituted by contributions that States participating in the Convention's meetings have an obligation to make on the basis of the costs for these Meetings, as per Article 14 of the Convention.

Paragraph 7(b) of the same document provides that the remaining 60% of the ISU budget will be financed by yearly contributions of the States Parties calculated according to the scale of assessments of the United Nations adjusted to the States parties to the Convention. Italy, similarly to other countries, clarified in the declarations and reservations attached to that document that it considers these last contributions as being fully voluntary in nature.

Paragraph 8(a) of Annex V explicitly states that the Implementation Support Unit will notify all States parties of the amount due for the following financial period for the percentage of the budget referenced under 7 (b). From this it derives that the amounts due on the basis of para. 7(a) should be notified to State Parties in a different manner, as part of the overall costs of Convention's meetings.

Mr. President,

The question I am asking is not theoretical. In Italy, we have different (legal) sources of funding for mandatory contributions relating to meetings' expenses as per Art. 14, and for voluntary contributions for Mine Action, under which we also include funding destined to the activities of the Ottawa and Oslo Conventions' ISUs.

While the former can rely on a fund that is replenished each budgetary year, as established once and for all by the provisions of the ratification law of the Oslo Convention, the total amount of the latter is set each year by the Parliament, according to overall availability of financial resources. As past experience shows, the degree of variation of this endowment can be significant, and allocations to different entities and projects vary accordingly.

Mr. President,

We fully understand that for 2016 the limited time available did not allow for the full implementation of the financial procedures for the ISU decided in Dubrovnik. Italy will pay the amounts relating to both para. 7(a) and 7(b) of the procedures in the next few weeks, drawing entirely on funds allocated for voluntary contributions. However, for next year we would expect, for the sake of the ISU's financial stability, a proper implementation of the decision taken last year, with the inclusion of 40% of the ISU budget in the overall costs of the annual MSP.

If our understanding of the Dubrovnik decision is incorrect, Mr. President, we will be grateful for any clarification that we will convey to our capital.

Thank you Mr. President.