

CCM 6MSP

Statement by Sweden

Agenda item 8 (i)

Mr President,

Sweden welcomed the decision by the First Review Conference in 2015 that effectively mandates States taking part in the Convention's meetings to contribute to the financing of the ISU, to a measure set as 40 per cent of its budget, based on calculations of the approved budget and the adjusted UN scale for assessments. In our opinion, this is a reasonable compromise.

However, due to existing national financial regulations and restrictions on budget lines, we have had some difficulties in the technical execution of our due payment, based on a letter from our esteemed Chair. As we all know, the other mandatory costs for these Meetings as per Article 14 of the Convention are billed from the United Nations Office at Geneva. It would simplify matters greatly if the obligatory part relating to the ISU could be included in the same bill from the UN so as not to have separate payments to different recipients. We understand that there will be an opportunity to review the financial procedures next year at the Seventh Meeting of States Parties and we would strongly recommend to explore the possibilities for this simplification of procedures.

Meanwhile, I am happy to declare that we managed to find a temporary solution and have paid our mandatory contribution, and that we are preparing to grant a voluntary contribution of 250 000 Swedish Kronor over and above that for 2016. This contribution, which amounts to approx. 30 000 Swiss Francs, should be used in the course of this year for the running costs of the ISU. For next year 2017 we expect to be able to continue with a similar contribution but it is unfortunately not possible to make a firm pledge at this time. Voluntary contributions will always depend on the availability of funds after Parliament has decided on the State Budget and the appropriate funds have been made available to the Government Offices in the first months of the new year.

Thankyou Mr President.