

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

STATEMENT: ISU FINANCE

The United Kingdom is extremely grateful for the work done by the Presidency of the Convention and the Implementation Support Unit to implement the financial decision of the First Review Conference in 2015. The UK also wishes to thank the Coordinators of the Working Group on the general status and operation of the Convention, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Switzerland, for their report on Elements for Review of the financial procedures on the financing of the ISU.

The UK is pleased that the ISU budget was covered in 2016, and it is positive that most of the major donors made contributions. The UK recognises that, as described in the report, the review of the financial procedures adopted at the first Review Conference relied upon data from only one full financial cycle, in 2016. Therefore, we believe that more time is needed in order to gather more data to provide a clear, wider basis for decisions. The next Review Conference could provide a natural stage for a thorough, multi-year assessment of the current financial procedures.

In the meantime, the UK is disappointed to learn that contributions for the first cycle have been made by fewer than half of States Parties. The UK calls upon all States in attendance, who have not yet made their contributions, to do so as swiftly as possible. A lack of contributions not only reduces the resources available to the ISU to implement the five-year work plan priorities set by States only two years ago in Dubrovnik, but also risks decreasing the ISU's support available to States Parties in applying the Convention. This time period is crucial - many States Parties face their legally stipulated deadlines on stockpile destruction and clearance of cluster munition remnants in affected areas.

More broadly, the timely payment of dues to the UN systems is a systemic problem and this example is evidence of a wider trend across the disarmament conventions. This cannot continue if the CCM and other treaties and conventions are to continue to carry out their important work. The UK stresses that States should demonstrate their commitment to the conventions by paying their financial contributions.

The UK continues to support a model based on voluntary contributions where all States taking part in the Meetings of States Parties, the Review Conferences or Amendment Conferences contribute. To assist the ISU in reaching its required budget for 2017, the UK has donated £15,000. This contribution is voluntary. Recalling the UK's statement from the Review Conference, we do not consider that the Convention on Cluster Munitions allows the imposition of mandatory contributions other than those expressly provided for in Article 14. We therefore interpret points 7(b) and 7(c) of the finance decision to both relate to voluntary contributions. The UK's donation therefore relates to 7(b) and 7(c). This voluntary contribution is of course in addition to the UK's commitments under 7(a) of the finance decision.

In closing, the United Kingdom reiterates its support and gratitude to the work of the Presidency, the ISU and to the Coordinators of the Working Group. Thank you.