



Permanent Mission of Italy
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Convention on Cluster Munitions
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Financial Issues

Statement by Amb. Gianfranco Incarnato
Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament

Mr. President,

Let me start by expressing our sincere appreciation for the comprehensive document you presented on the financial situation of the Convention, and on the measures that we could take into consideration to put the CCM on a more predictable and sustainable footing.

Italy can support most of these, but would like to make the following, specific remarks.

As your paper underlines, due to internal, administrative and budgeting reasons, some States are not in a position to pay their assessed contributions within 30 days, even if the invoices are issued at the very end of a year for the following financial year. Italy is one of these States. For our system, therefore, keeping the deadline for payment at 30 days while the invoicing is processed at a much earlier stage – as proposed in para. 28, sixth bullet point of your paper – would be problematic.

In principle, we are open to a double system of invoicing as described in para. 29, first bullet point, letters a) and b). Our support to this measure, however, would be conditional on the guarantee that credits that States Parties would likely accumulate would be returned – in the form of deductions from contributions due for the following year – on a yearly basis.

We cannot support the proposal concerning the possibility not to bill observer States for taking part in CCM formal events. This, as you point out yourself, goes against the letter of art. 14 of the Convention. In our view, such a measure would also raise ethical issues, as well as lead to an increase in the burden on States Parties that we cannot agree to.

Finally, as we have stated in other fora experiencing the same issues, we are also open to the introduction of a contingency provision and to the creation of a reserve capital fund, provided that neither is used to compensate for non-payments and that the fund is sourced through voluntary contributions.

Should such a fund be established, and based on similar decisions recently taken in the framework of other Treaties, we would recommend drafting very clear Terms of Reference for the use of its resources.

Thank you, Mr. President