



Misión Permanente de Costa Rica
ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas
Ginebra

**Second Review Conference of the Convention on
Cluster munitions
Statement of COSTA RICA under agenda items 6 d), 6 e)
-courtesy translation-**

Mr. President,

We appreciate the work done by you, your team, and the Implementation Support Unit to hold this Review Conference, particularly in the midst of a pandemic. And that is why, we also appreciate the efforts made previously to hold formal and informal exchanges and discussions, with a view to socialize the scope of the substantive documents to be considered during this Review Conference.

In this context, we would like to recall what was expressed by my delegation during the informal consultation on October 14, where precisely we made a correlation between the proposal on reflections and options regarding the Convention machinery, and the elements on possible measures to ensure financial predictability and sustainability.

On the one hand, we understand the need to redouble efforts to strengthen the implementation of the Convention, especially in times when it is still not universal, and cluster munitions continue to cause serious humanitarian consequences around the world.

On the other hand, my delegation considers that, although it is opportune to discuss such important issues as the possibility of reinstating an intersessional period, or increasing the number of days of the Conference of States Parties, it would seem that we should be cautious when considering such substantive decisions at this time. Moreover, the proposed decisions shall not be evaluated in silos or in isolation.

Mr. President,

All countries -without exception- are strongly affected by the current pandemic, including in their economies, health-care systems and availability of human capital.

The scenario for 2021 presents a disarmament calendar that seems extremely full, and exacerbated in complexity by the COVID-19, and the uncertainty about its duration and its further consequences.

It is the position of my delegation that any proposal to adjust the working methods of the Convention, should be sensitive to the world economic situation that hits the countries of the global south the hardest. And measures that subsequently lead to increased burdens should not be considered, including as they may increase annual financial contributions by States.

We consider, for example, that the work of the different committees could be enhanced with additional outreach activities to all States and stakeholders, including among others, low-cost, informal virtual exchanges and/or webinars. And following the innovations brought about in other regimes.

Regarding the financial options to be considered by this Review Conference:

My delegation has expressed on previous occasions the need to be certain about the financial aspects of the Convention.

My country annually makes its financial contribution to the Convention and to the Implementation Support Unit in a timely manner. And we have respectfully urged other states to do the same. This being the effective way to ensure precisely the sustainability of the Convention and its work.

We also appreciate the effort and time dedicated by the Presidency and the ISU in preparing the draft proposal, with a view to strengthening the finances of the Convention and to alleviate the financial uncertainty, that would ultimately lead to the non-performance of our activities. And due to the lack of resources that were duly budgeted.

However, we perceive that the reasons why some States do not make their contributions in a timely manner vary from one State to another, and it is difficult to generalize *a priori* what these reasons could be. Therefore, an individualized consultation approach is relevant, and generally useful, to address these issues.

Regarding the recommendations included in number V of document CCM / CONF / 2020 / PM.2 / WP.7, we would like to contribute the following:

Due to our experience in other treaties and disarmament regimes, options such as the elaboration of a payment schedule are not necessarily practical or enforceable in the short and medium terms. Let us remember that in this case, basic issues such as the definition of the process and characteristics of that payment plan must be addressed in the first place. These are delicate aspects that require a long process of research, consultations and construction of agreements.

We consider the above, a valuable recommendation to continue considering in the future, but not to be adopted by this Review Conference, in particular due to the characteristics of our current predicaments.

Likewise, as we discussed in the previous agenda item on the machinery of the Convention, the economic crisis presupposes that developing States will not be able to generate the additional resources necessary to oblige to an increase in the payment of their annual contributions. Thus, it would be extremely difficult for my delegation to accompany the recommendation to increase these contributions by 15% to create a contingency fund at this time. On the other hand, we would have no problem supporting the establishment of a voluntary capitalization fund.

Furthermore, and regarding the recommendation for the elaboration of a multi-year budget. It is not clear to my delegation whether the issuance of bi-annual invoices also presupposes a payment of two contributions in the same fiscal or financial period. If that is not the idea, we suggest adapting the language so that it reads that these invoices will be issued 90 days before the start of *the financial period in question*, as this point is not so clear now. Obviously, my

delegation could not accompany a proposal that results in a combined payment of 2 contributions in the same cycle, for reasons of internal legal and administrative order.

As we stated earlier, the economic crisis that will last for at least a couple of years, according to expert forecasts, is not the ideal time to suggest additional commitments to countries, especially to the States of the global south. Only in Latin America this year, the value of the gross domestic product (GDP) will fall between 9 and 11% for example. And our economies are redoubling efforts to reactivate, to tackle unemployment, and to increase investments in health and education, among others.

We are once again grateful for having put these substantive considerations and recommendations on the table, which we will undoubtedly be able to continue to address and discuss in a broader, open and inclusive manner in the near future.