

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

STATEMENT: FINANCE

Thank you Mr President,

As this is the first time my delegation has taken the floor, I would like to congratulate you on your Presidency of this Convention, and to thank you for your guidance in steering our work so far. You continue to have the UK's full support. I would also like to thank Ms Sheila Mweemba and the ISU staff for all their work in enabling this meeting and its discussions to take place.

The UK remains fully committed to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. We are mindful of the suffering and casualties caused by cluster munitions both at the time of their use, and sometimes for decades thereafter. We are deeply concerned by the reports of cluster munitions use over the past year and call on the actors involved to cease using these weapons. We also call on any states not already party to the Convention to accede to it without delay.

The Convention on Cluster Munitions has been a key international disarmament initiative in prohibiting not only the use, production and transfer of cluster munitions, but also in requiring clearance operations, as well as promoting victim assistance.

The UK completed the destruction of its stockpile of cluster munitions in December 2013, more than 5 years ahead of the schedule set by the Convention. In this clearance we achieved a recycling rate for components in excess of 90%. We would be pleased to share our experience with interested States and urge all States Parties with outstanding obligations under Article 3 to complete destruction as soon as possible.

The UK would like to see the Convention become universal and takes opportunities in both bilateral discussions and multinational fora to encourage our allies, and others, to accede to the Convention. We congratulate all those states that have acceded to the Convention since the Review Conference. We have now reached 100 States Parties, but our work on universalisation should continue in order to achieve our goal of making this Convention a global one.

Turning now to finance, the UK is extremely grateful for the work done by the Presidency of the Convention and the ISU to implement the financial decision of the Review Conference.

To assist the ISU in reaching its required budget for 2016, the United Kingdom has donated £25,000. 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).

In addition to its voluntary contribution, the UK stands ready to contribute under point 7 (a) of the finance decision when the requested invoice has been received.

Thank you.