



Foreign & Commonwealth Office

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

STATEMENT: SELECTION PROCESS FOR FUTURE PRESIDENCIES

CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS: EIGHTH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES

Delivered under Agenda Item 51 'Selection Process for future Convention Presidencies (item 7j of the provisional agenda)'. Wednesday 5 September 2018

Mr President,

1. The United Kingdom is extremely grateful for the paper submitted by Germany on the Establishment of a Process for the Selection of the Presidency of the Convention.
2. The UK supports the Convention's internal guidelines that stipulate that Presidents be chosen according to a procedure that takes in to consideration the regional balance and on the alternation of affected and non-affected states. We also recognise there are many benefits to be gained from continuity and certainty around future presidencies. We therefore welcome suggestions that can help add further clarity around this process, such as the proposal by Germany. The UK would like to make some general comments for consideration and we would be happy to discuss further with the drafter.
3. The UK has some reservations about formalising a fixed rotational scheme, as set out in Paragraph 5(b). We have seen such proposals prove difficult elsewhere. We would therefore recommend that we apply lessons from other fora where there is already such a system in place. This would enable us to take up best practice and hopefully avoid shortcomings in this system, such as clarity on which countries fall within which regional groupings, on what basis regional groupings elect their candidate and how disputes will be resolved. We believe such matters deserve more consideration.
4. We also look forward to discussing the details of a transition between outgoing and incoming Presidencies. The UK believes this is beneficial, and thus encourages states to consider how this will be handled in practice.
5. In closing, the UK reiterates its support and gratitude to Germany for the paper, and to all States Parties who have dedicated their efforts to the Convention. Thank you.