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UK STATEMENT ON ISU

Geneva April 2012

Monsignor, Madame President ,

The UK is grateful to the Lebanese Presidency for their hard work in identifying options for progressing the issue of ISU funding.

The UK's position has consistently been that our preference is for a voluntary model of funding, which has operated under the Ottawa Convention for more than a decade. During these difficult economic times assuming additional long-term financial obligations is not something we can take on lightly.

This notwithstanding, we were grateful for sight of the proposal for the alternative model of funding which was presented by the Lebanese Presidency earlier this week, which has some merit. We will consider in detail in capital the elements of this proposal and will feedback our considered views into the ongoing consultation process. Whichever funding model ultimately garners consensus we must ensure that the ISU is as efficient and lean as possible and that all possible synergies with other bodies are fully investigated and exploited.

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As my distinguished colleague from Canada noted before the break, the priority is now to resolve this issue to ensure that the implementation of the convention can take centre stage. In this regard we look forward to fruitful discussions in the coming weeks and months.

Thank You

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