



Agenda Item 8 – Other matters

STATEMENT OF THE CCM ISU DIRECTOR ON THE CONVENTION'S SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME

Mr President, if I may, I would like to begin by providing a very brief overview of the objectives of the Sponsorship Programme and criteria applied in the selection of its beneficiaries.

Distinguished delegates, the main objective of the Sponsorship Programme is to facilitate State participation at formal meetings of the Convention that is as broad-based as possible to ensure that all States Parties – both affected and non-affected - as well as all other interested States – can take part in these fundamental meetings to further strengthen the Convention. It also aims to ensure that there is regional

diversity in representation as well as to facilitate the collective ownership of decisions taken at these formal meetings.

This in turn promotes and strengthens the norms set by the Convention whilst furthering universalization efforts.

I wish to highlight that the selection criteria employed to identify beneficiaries of the Sponsorship Programme varies from year to year depending on the priorities determined by States Parties. The ISU manages sponsorship of the selected beneficiaries of the Programme as approved by the Convention's Coordination Committee.

The Selection Criteria usually categorizes priority based on the following considerations: gender balance, regional representation, States Parties with time-bound obligations, have victims of cluster munitions, Signatory States to encourage ratification processes, and States that have not yet acceded to the Convention. Consideration is also given to the stipulations provided by individual Donor States which may indicate the preferred beneficiaries to be prioritized in the

awarding of sponsorships. The sponsorship mainly covers participant airfare, accommodation and per diem.

Currently, only 4 States Parties (Australia, Canada, Slovakia and Switzerland) have contributed to the Sponsorship Programme, a total of approximately **CHF 87,700**. In the past, for a 3-day meeting, this amount would facilitate the sponsorship of up to 25 state representatives at a cost of around CHF 3,500 each.

As the Review Conference will likely last 5 days, the cost of sponsoring a participant based on pre-COVID-19 prices would be approximately CHF 4,000 per delegate. Therefore, the current funds available would only be able to cover the participation of **20** delegates.

Thank you, Mr. President.