

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Intersessional meetings, 8-9 June 2017

Statement Austria

Presentation on 16 MSP and organizational matters / Budgetary
Concerns

Mr. President,

Let me start by thanking UNODA for the update on the financial situation. Austria fully aligns itself with the Statement of the European Union (to be) delivered earlier (later) in this debate. Let me offer a few additional remarks from a national perspective.

I am taking the floor to join other delegations, and underline Austria's deep concern about the financial status of the Convention. Art. 14 of the convention is clear about States Parties financial obligations: The costs of the Meetings of the States Parties and the Review Conferences shall be borne by the States Parties and States not parties to this Convention participating therein, (in accordance with the United Nations scale of assessment). These financial obligations are crucial to the implementation of the convention.

However, we are confronted with structural substantial areas, some of them dating back up to 15 years. The implementation of the UMJOA system has made this long-standing challenge all the more visible. At the same time, we have reached a point where our

debt ratio is so high, that it can simply not be masked anymore by the in-time payments of other States Parties.

We regret that the President just had to inform States Parties that the decision-making body of our convention, the Meeting of States Parties, had to be cut by one day due to the lack of funding. We equally regret that further other cost saving measures will most probably have to be taken.

While exceptional situations might occur, it is difficult to understand why some countries have accumulated arrears over several years. We strongly urge all States Parties and all States participating in Meetings of the Convention to live up to their obligations and to pay all due contributions as soon as possible.

I thank you.