

Thank you Mr President,

Thank you for the presentations on the financial situation of the Convention. The UK aligns itself with the statement of the European Union and has some comments to make in its national capacity.

The UK, like many other States Parties, is deeply concerned about the financial state of the Convention. The proper functioning of the Convention is at risk. It is with regret that we hear that the MSP will be shortened due to a lack of funding during such an important year for the Convention. The UK has already reiterated today the importance attached to states paying their financial contributions in a timely manner to allow the MSP in December to go ahead as planned. We call upon all States Parties that have not yet paid or have arrears to address this promptly.

Aside from timely contributions, we should consider other ways to bring greater financial stability to the Convention. Firstly, we should consider ways in which we might be able to make our meetings more cost effective. For example, going paperless, which would also reduce the impact on the environment, and reducing the length of papers that need to be translated. Secondly, the UK continues to work with the UN and others on streamlining the invoicing procedure for example, by ensuring prompt issuing of all invoices at one time. Thirdly, we must address the issue of arrears and consider ways to discourage States Parties from non-payment.

The UK has been particularly active in working with the Convention and others to improve financial stability. I assure you of our continued support on this issue in future.

Thank you.