

Statements by the Delegation of Thailand
H.E. Mr. Thani Thongphakdi,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
Of Thailand to the United Nations
Agenda 6(b): Decision to Strengthen Financial Governance and
Transparency within the ISU
14th Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
3 December 2015, Geneva

Mr. President,

The financial predictability of the Convention's Implementation Support Unit is arguably one of the most pressing issues we are facing this year. As the work of the ISU has been supported solely from voluntary contributions from States Parties, keeping the work plan of the ISU to correspond to the actual budget received each year can be extremely challenging.

For these reasons, I believe all delegations here would concur with me that you deserve our special thanks for having navigated the Convention through this difficulty. In this regard, the Thai Delegation wishes to express our appreciation for the draft Decision on Strengthening Financial Governance and Transparency within the ISU and the several rounds of consultations leading to this final draft.

Mr. President,

Thailand supports the idea of having the ISU submit its work plan and budget for a period of 4 years in advance. We also welcome Belgium's timely initiative to establish the Financial Security Buffer, and its generous head start contribution to the Buffer, to guarantee the continuity of the core tasks performed by the ISU.

It is indeed necessary to differentiate between the core tasks of the ISU from additional tasks or "enhanced support" during this time of financial difficulty. However, it is our view that once the budgetary situation of the ISU has gained stability and predictability, technical support and advisory activities related to victim assistance and cooperation with States Parties, which requires the expertise of an additional staff, could be reintroduced as part of the "core support" category.

While we welcome the proposed draft 4-year work plan and budget to be adopted later today, we view that States Parties may need to consider an alternative funding mechanism as adopted by other related disarmament instruments, such as the UN Scale of Assessment, in order to ensure the ISU's financial predictability, sustainability, stability and functionality.

Mr. President,

We would like to take this opportunity to also voice our encouragement to all States Parties to demonstrate greater ownership of the Convention by allocating more multi-year voluntary contributions to the ISU.

On our part, we are considering the possibility to offer financial contribution to the budget of the ISU annually for a period of 4 years starting from next year so as to correspond with its work plan to be adopted today. We hope to be able to announce this decision at the pledging conference early next year.

Thank you.

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