



European Union

**EU Statement on the financial situation
16th Meeting of States Parties to the
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Vienna, 18-21 December 2017**

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Mr. President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The following countries align themselves with this statement: Turkey§, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia□, Montenegro*, Serbia*, Albania*, Bosnia and Herzegovina*, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia.

The EU would like to thank you for putting financial matters on the agenda and the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs for providing regular updates on the status of financial contributions to the Convention. Further transparency and constant monitoring are useful, as they help us to identify and address financial challenges in a timely manner.

We are concerned over the serious financial situation of the Convention which has led to the shortening of the Meeting of States Parties for a second consecutive year. Such extraordinary measures should remain an exception rather than become a rule. In order not to be forced to take another set of extraordinary measures, we invite States Parties to consider further concrete measures to ensure the financial sustainability of the Convention.

We recall that timely and full financial contributions are an important part of States Parties' obligations under Article 14. They are the administrative baseline for effective implementation and proper operation of the Convention. We take note of the increased rate of payments in 2017. Nonetheless, persistent arrears by several States Parties are a matter of deep concern. We reiterate our call to all States Parties that have not yet done so to pay their dues in full and on time.

On the other hand, we are pleased that the unprecedented substantial shortfall of voluntary funding which the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) faced only a few years ago has been mitigated, thanks to the Belgian initiative to establish a voluntary financial buffer.

Finally, we encourage States Parties and other relevant actors to make use of synergies and cooperation between various instruments, where possible. We encourage the identification of further potential cost-effective measures and we welcome the paper submitted by the President in this regard, in accordance with the mandate of the 14th Meeting of States Parties.

Thank you, Mr. President

* Candidate Countries Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania as well as potential Candidate Country Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.