



**European Union**

**Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**

**17th Meeting of States Parties**

**Geneva, 26-30 November 2018**

**EU Statement on Financial status of assessed contributions**

Madam President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the EU and its Member States.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Montenegro\*, Serbia\* and Albania\*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this statement.

We welcome your commitment to address matters relating to financial predictability and sustainability in cooperation with States Parties and the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs. We consider it important to monitor the financial situation in a transparent manner and to receive regular updates on the financial contributions.

We are concerned over the sizeable arrears due by five States and delayed payments by 31 States which have led to the shortening of the Meeting of States Parties for a third consecutive year. We recall that timely and full financial contributions are an important part of States Parties' obligations under Article 14. Once again, we call on all States that have not yet done so to pay their dues in full and on time.

While cost-cutting measures were again inevitable this year, as a result of non-payment, they should not become a regular practice to address this challenge. They will not solve the financial problems. We hope that all States Parties will honour their financial obligations in

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\* The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

the lead up to the Fourth Review Conference and make a prompt payment of their assessed contributions in 2019. We cannot afford to put this important Convention and its effective functioning in danger. We support the proposal to examine if the measures put in place so far will have a long-lasting impact on the financial situation and we look forward to working towards further recommendations to be adopted at the Review Conference to improve the financial liquidity and to address the situation of structural arrears.

Thank you, Madam President