



Statement of the Netherlands
under agenda item 10 on
Financial status of assessed contributions to the Meetings
of the States Parties
Seventeenth Meeting of States Parties of the
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Thank you Madam President,

In addition to the statement delivered by the EU, the Netherlands has some additional remarks in its national capacity.

The Netherlands appreciates that the financial situation of the APMBC is addressed this morning. It is important to be transparent about the finances of the Convention, as this will help us to address upcoming challenges in a timely manner.

As with previous years, the Netherlands is concerned with the financial situation of the Convention. Persistent arrears by several States Parties remain a matter of concern. Due to these arrears, the Convention has not been able to fully meet its budget since last year and hence savings had to be made to make the Meetings of States Parties happen.

Furthermore, concerning financial liquidity, we took an important step last year, namely adding a 15% contingency to the budget in order to have some liquidity up front. Unfortunately, this measure did not help this year. We all need to ensure that we pay our contributions on time at the beginning of January each year. We hope all countries can ensure measures are put in place nationally to ensure on time payment of the assessed contributions. Only then will we be able to hold the meetings as planned.

In this regard, due to non-payments and late payments, similar to last year, instead of the Meeting lasting five days, we are trying to cram our full programme into four days. We regret this situation.

We thank the President for the report on the financial situation as requested by the 16th Meeting of States Parties. We take note of the observations. We support the recommendation that the issue should be taken up in the lead up to the next Review Conference. We would request the final report of this meeting to reflect this and extend last year's mandate to the upcoming Presidency and request them to look into possible measures to address the financial predictability and sustainability for the Meetings of States Parties under this Convention. Also, we agree that the States Parties play a role by encouraging other States Parties to settle structural arrears, but we do believe it is in the mandate of the President to take a lead on this matter, because if there are no sufficient funds, there will be no meetings and that would hamper the execution of our mandates. We could look into other States Parties assisting the President with this task, for example through establishing a Committee on the General Status and Operation of this Convention as we had earlier and tasking them, amongst others, with ensuring the financial predictability and sustainability of the Convention. The Netherlands is keen to see this addressed at the next Review Conference in order to ensure a financially stable and sound Convention that enables us to do our substantive work.

Turning to the ISU's finances, we are glad to see the ISU doing well and receiving the voluntary contributions they need to perform their important tasks. The Netherlands is committed to continue our multi-year voluntary funding towards the ISU and the sponsorship programme for a total amount of 50.000 euros. We highly value the work done by the Implementation Support Unit and we sincerely thank them for all their efforts, under the excellent leadership of Juan Carlos Ruan.

Thank you, Madam President.