

**Intersessional Meeting of the States Parties of the
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Geneva, 8-9 June 2017**

Statement on the Financial Status of the Convention

**by Sachi Claringbould, First Secretary at the Permanent Representation of
the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Conference on Disarmament**

Thank you Mr President. The Netherlands would like to thank the presidency firstly for making space on the agenda to address this important issue. Transparency is key in identifying problems in a timely manner. Also, we would like to thank UNODA for the presentation on financial and organizational matters related to the 16th MSP.

The Netherlands aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU and would like to make some additional remarks in its national capacity.

The Netherlands regrets that the Convention is in troubled financial shape. This regrets feels stronger for those who did fulfil their financial obligations in time or even paid more than their share, because as a result of the current condition we may need to take yet again extraordinary measures in able to simply do our work. We therefore call on all who have outstanding contributions to pay as soon as possible so that we can continue our work on mine clearance, victim assistance, stockpile destruction, cooperation and assistance and other important goals of the Convention. That is only fair to the Convention and to the Ottawa community.

Addressing the issue in a statement like this, may however be not enough. We also need to encourage UNOG to improve the efficiency of the contribution process. Reducing the costs of meetings, in terms of paperless meetings and setting a word limit to documents, should indeed be pursued for efficiency sake. Those measures should not be contrary to the Rules of Procedure. However, they will not solve the problem of arrears. It will only carry the problem forward. Some states parties have not paid for many years. We also need to think of introducing measures to discourage non-payment, along the lines of art. 19 of the UN Charter.

The Netherlands sincerely hopes that we can effectively address this issue so we can devote all our resources to the important work relating to the objectives of the Convention.