

**Eleventh Annual Pledging Conference  
for the Convention's Implementation Support Unit**

**Statement by Austria**

Madame President,

Austria aligns itself with the Statement by the European Union.

Let me start by thanking the whole team of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) for the tremendous efforts they undertake to support States Parties in the implementation of the Convention and the Siem-Reap Angkor Action Plan. The intersessional work they undertake throughout the year to assist affected States Parties in meeting their obligations, including reporting obligations, is commendable. Apart from the personal commitment the ISU staff puts into this work, we fully acknowledge that many activities are dependent on sufficient funding by donors.

We have listened to the presentation by the ISU about the situation of funding and are concerned that continued budget constraints could impact their ability to answer to assistance requests of affected States Parties. As the chair of Victim Assistance Committee this year, Austria is particularly aware of the impact a lack of funding can have on victim assistance activities and ensuring the needs and contributions of victims and affected communities are sufficiently reflected in our work. In this regard, we thank those able to contribute to the Sponsorship Programme.

Madame President,

Support for the ISU has been a long-standing priority for Austria in our engagement with the Convention and we have contributed continuously over the past decade. We would like to take the opportunity today to pledge our continued support for the year 2026. Further details will be decided in due course, but we deemed it important to show our commitment and support as early as possible and encourage others to do the same.

Last but not least, we would further like to commend you, Madame President, and the team of the Zambian Presidency for calling this meeting and ensuring that the implementation of the Siem-Reap Angkor Action Plan can continue through concerted efforts. I assure you of my delegation's support to your presidency in the lead up to the 23rd Meeting of States Parties later this year.

Thank you