



Statement of the Netherlands
under Agenda Item 8 of the
First Preparatory Meeting
for the Fourth Review Conference
2019 Intersessionals meetings of the
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Thank you Mr President,

To start with the positive news: we are happy to see that the financial situation of the ISU is in good order. The Netherlands contributes EUR 40.000 a year to the ISU and we are glad other countries provide similar contributions that allow the ISU to fulfil its mandate.

However, we are very much concerned with regard to the financial situation of the Convention itself, which has affected the holding of the meetings and might do so again this year if not addressed properly. Persistent arrears by several States Parties and Observer States remain a matter of concern. We thank the UN Secretariat for the paper provided on our table with all the outstanding contributions as at 30 April 2019. We note that the total amount of structural arrears up until 2018 amounts to USD 180.862.42. Apart from that, still USD 386.261.52 needs be collected for this year's meeting. This means, thanks to some overpayments, that the treaty currently faces an acute deficit amounting to nearly 40% of the total budget. Unless the arrears are recovered soon and States Parties expeditiously pay their contributions for this year, we will have to cut 40% of our planned activities. This is an unacceptable situation and we urge all countries to fulfil their financial obligations towards this Convention.

Furthermore, we would like to thank the Norwegian Presidency for reminding us, as was stated in paragraph 44 of the Final Report of the 17MSP, that the Presidency is 'continuously monitoring the financial situation of the convention and [that it will] address the issue at the fourth Review Conference.'

We support Norway as the current president to ensure this issue is taken up and see whether any further measures can be taken to address this issue effectively.

Thank you.