



Statement of the Netherlands
under agenda item 9 on
Financial status of assessed contributions to the Meetings
of the States Parties
Fourth Review Conference of the
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Thank you Mister President,

The Netherlands appreciates that the financial situation of the APMBC is addressed today. 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.

We are concerned with the deterioration of the financial health of the Convention since the Third Review Conference. Persistent arrears and late payment by several States Parties remain a matter of concern. As a result, the Meeting of States Parties has been cut from five to only four days. The effectiveness and legitimacy of the Convention is in danger by reducing the available time spent on these important issues. Not taking action will not help the solid implementation of the Oslo Action Plan we are committing to.

The majority of States Parties continues to pay their contributions in full and on time. It is only a small number of States Parties and non-States Parties participating in the meetings who do not pay. As a country paying its contributions in full and on time, we should not be forced to pick up the bills or to cover for the debts of others, as this will not encourage payment by those that are in arrears if there are no measures to mitigate this. Our assessed contributions cannot and should not be used in such way, as this will not meet our national criteria for transparency and accountability.

In this context, my delegation is very concerned by some of the measures introduced unilaterally by the United Nations, including the withholding of credits, as per their Note Verbale of 1 April. We remain open to further discussing this matter with the UN Secretariat to find a sustainable solution.

We thank the President for the report on the financial situation as requested by the 17th Meeting of States Parties. We support the observations and recommendations. We also support the decisions proposed in the Presidency's list of decisions for the final report. The Netherlands is keen to see these decisions be implemented into concrete steps in the next five years to ensure a financially stable and sound Convention that enables us to do our substantive work. We also like to ensure that these decisions remain subject to review and regular monitoring for their effectiveness in the coming five years.

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, Mister President.