



Netherlands Statement

**under agenda item 14 Issues related to the Implementation Support Unit,
Meeting of the High Contracting Parties, Geneva, 21-23 November 2018**

by Sachi Claringbould

Deputy Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

to the Conference on Disarmament

Mr Chair,

- Further to our remarks on the financial situation, the Netherlands would like to make specific remarks relating to the Implementation Support Unit, or rather the lack of it. We no longer have an ISU to provide the necessary secretarial support and to work on the implementation of the Convention on a daily basis. The termination of the contracts of the former ISU staff was triggered by the lack of funding due to structural non-payments and late payments. We thank UNODA for their 'interim' support and acknowledge their hard work. However, this is not a sustainable replacement for a full-fledged ISU that the CCW needs.
- We thank you, Mr Chair, for your proposals and work on this issue and we can support your suggestion to make a more final decision on the structure at the next Review Conference. In the meantime we would like to thank UNODA for their efforts to ensure the minimal secretarial support to keep the meetings running.
- In the end, we are keen to see a long-term sustainable solution in which the ISU-functions as we agreed on are implemented in full. We are flexible in terms of whether this means embedding the ISU in UNODA, paying it through the UN regular budget or through taking it out of the UN system and setting up a structure like some of the other Geneva-based Conventions. The only option we cannot support is to continue the status quo, even if it is clarified. A solution that the ISU stays in the UN system, but is funded from assessed contributions, proved a recipe for disaster, as we no longer have an ISU. There are some incompatibilities with the UN Human Resources system and the fact that we cannot ensure that all contributions are paid in full. It means that if we continue, we will inevitably be faced with that same unpleasant choice of either no meetings or no ISU or both. In the Netherlands we have a proverb that says that a donkey does not hit its head twice against the same stone. So let us ensure that we are not going to be donkeys after all.

Thank you.