Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects

Agenda Item 13. Financial issues related to the Convention and its annexed Protocols

Statement Austria

14.11.2019

Mr. President,

Austria fully aligns itself with the EU Statement and wishes to add the following two points in a national capacity.

First, as outlined by previous speakers the key challenge remains non-payment. The obligation to honour assessed contributions is a vital part of the Convention and any financial measure should be in line with the political and legal necessity to pay these contributions in time and in full. We call upon all States to pay their contribution in full and on time.

Second, pending full and timely payment we need to ensure that the Convention is put on solid financial footing that allows proper basic functioning of the Convention. We regret that the CCW ISU experienced significant challenges over the past years, which even led to a situation where the ISU had to be discontinued, despite the consensual 2009 decision of High Contracting Parties. Austria thus thanks the President and his team for preparing the paper on further suggested measures that could be considered to improve the stability of the Secretariat’s support to the Convention and on financial issues related to the Convention and its annexed Protocols.

Austria is in a position to agree to the proposal to establish a voluntary fund. This voluntary measure could be helpful to assure that our Convention receives the necessary secretarial support as decided by High Contracting Parties in 2009. In the lead up to the Review Conference, we also support keeping the already agreed measures under review, and identifying further measures that could be considered to improve the financial sustainability of the Convention.

I thank you.