

**Conventional Weapons Convention
Meeting of High Contracting Parties
21-23. November 2018**

Agenda Item 15 -

Financial issues related to the Convention and its annexed Protocols

Statement Austria

Mr Chair,

Austria aligns itself with the EU statement. Let me underline the following points in our national capacity.

We particularly wish to commend Ambassador Karklins for the extensive efforts and his transparent, structured work on financial matters (related to the Convention). Sufficient finances are an essential foundation of an effective instrument. We need to find ways and means how to put our Convention on a financially sound foundation. In the interest of time I will be very brief.

First, as outlined by previous speakers the key challenge remains non-payment. We call upon all States to pay their contribution in full and on time.

Second, while we had extensive discussions last year on how to put the Convention on solid financial footing, probably only few would have expected the current state of affairs. The financial measures adopted by consensus last year could not resolve all issues. Austria welcomes the proposal to adopt the necessary clarifications to last year's measures to enable their full implementation. In this regard, we support the language circulated to all High Contracting Parties by the Chair.

Third, we welcome the proposals made by Ambassador Karklins to establish a contingency fund. This is an essential and certainly effective measure to assure necessary short term liquidity without compromising funds for unintended purposes.

Lastly, while Austria does not oppose the proposal of a voluntary fund, we wish to underline that the obligation to honour assessed contributions is a vital part of the Convention and any measure should be in line with the political and legal necessity to pay these contributions in time and in full.

Let me conclude by once again by thanking you Mr. Chair for your extensive and comprehensive efforts to address the severe financial situation of the Convention.

I thank you.