The Philippines aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Venezuela on behalf of NAM.

In addition, we wish to make the following statements in our national capacity.

Firstly, we wish to express our appreciation to you Mr. Chair for your efforts in comprehensively addressing budgetary and financial matters related to the Convention. We acknowledge that the Non-Paper and Information Paper you have circulated is a useful reference to guide States Parties’ discussions in crafting a practical and sustainable resolution to this issue.

As we have articulated in the recent informal consultations on the matter, the Philippines will support proposals that:

1. Are voluntary in nature and will not entail additional financial burdens on States Parties in good standing;
2. Incentivize early payment and immediate settlement of arrears by non-payers;
3. Assess internal processes and procedures to determine areas for improvement and streamlining in order to reduce costs and maximize resources; and
4. Will strengthen and maintain institutional expertise within the Implementation Support Unit (ISU);

In this regard, we see the value of exploring further the option of a Working Capital Fund financed by voluntary contributions from States Parties, as well as certain proposals on firm budgeting that increase the Convention’s efficiency, and incentivize consistent and timely payment of contributions. These may be more viable and acceptable alternatives to measures that will effectively increase the mandated assessments of States Parties, whether on a permanent basis or as a one-off.

We caution against measures that may in effect curtail the right of any State Party to participate fully in the Convention. We strongly believe that the way forward is through a facilitative rather than a punitive approach, taking into account the circumstances of States Parties at the national level.

In concluding, Mr. Chair, we stress the importance of continued dialogue between all States Parties in producing concrete outcomes arrived at by consensus. We assure you of our support and constructive engagement as we pursue our common objective of putting the Convention on sound financial footing.

We thank you Mr. Chair.