

**OTTAWA MEETING OF STATES PARTIES, 28 NOVEMBER – 1
DECEMBER 2016**

**UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND
STATEMENT ON
FINANCES**

Thank you Madam President,

The UK appreciates the difficulty faced by your Presidency and the Convention's ISU in organising this meeting due to a lack of contributions from some States. It is important that all States Parties formally recognise the need to make their contributions to the cost of holding these meetings 90 days in advance of the scheduled meeting. This allows the necessary time to confirm arrangements such as room provision and interpretation services. We hope that this might be reflected in the final document. States Parties to the BTWC agreed a form of words last week, for example.

Your Presidency and the ISU have been forced to employ some efficiency measures in order for this meeting to still go ahead within the available budget. In an increasingly difficult financial climate, we should consider which of these measures should become permanent. For example, conducting paperless meetings in future not only reduces the cost of printing and the required number of UN Conference Officers, it is also more environmentally-friendly. This is a practice that the ISU has successfully adopted for the past few years to communicate with States Parties and that should also be replicated for the conduct of these

meetings. Our Belgian colleague referred to shorter meetings. This is also something we would support.

Finally, I would like to welcome the presentation by UNODA and to hear of their engagement with financial services to improve the clarity and timeliness of billing - we hope that in the coming months this can be codified so that such arrangements become agreed practice and do not have to be agreed each year.

Thank you.