

15th MEETING OF STATES PARTIES
ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION
(OTTAWA CONVENTION)

STATEMENT BY CANADA - SANTIAGO, CHILE - DECEMBER 2016

FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE CONVENTION

- We congratulate Chile and the Implementation Support Unit on the excellent pledging conference for the Convention that they held in Geneva in March. Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs was pleased to take part in the panel, and to announce Canada's contribution to the ISU's 2016 budget.
- We are also grateful to Australia and the ISU for their tireless efforts to garner support for the sponsorship programme, which is an important tool to support universalization and implementation of this Convention.
- The pledging conference provided a welcome measure of stability in that we learned early on in the year what contributions to expect from States to the ISU, and of the critical situation facing funding for the sponsorship programme. However, at present the contributions received for the ISU are lower than the ones received last year.
- At the MSP next year, there is a mandated review of the new financial model that we adopted last year. It is worth considering over the course of this coming year whether this new system will provide resources commensurate with our ambitions as states parties.
- We should explore potential changes to this system which might serve us better, including allowing the presidency and ISU to focus attention on the 2025 goal that they must currently direct at fundraising. It is of note that this Convention is now the last of the Geneva-based disarmament conventions to have a purely voluntary funding model for its ISU.

FINANCIAL SITUATION FOR MEETING COSTS

- This year, the Geneva-based disarmament conventions, including our own, have faced a challenging situation as the UN changes its financial procedures, and as debt continues to mount from a small number of States who continue not to pay their assessed contributions year after year. There was the very real prospect that we may not have been able to meet here today.
- We are grateful to Chile for their skillful management of the situation, and for their significant contribution to ensure that all UN languages could be used in this meeting.

- We have been encouraged by some news of States announcing that they will pay their dues. However, we would like to reiterate the importance of doing so. This Convention is a responsibility for us all, and we must take our commitment seriously if we hope to succeed.
- We encourage all participating States to honor their commitments and fulfill their financial obligations by submitting their assessed contributions in full, and on time.