

16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention  
Vienna, 18-21 December 2017.

Statements of the Kingdom of Belgium  
on the thematic matters in agenda item 11.

Check against delivery.

*(financial viability of the Convention)*

We would like to thank you, Mr President, for having **maintained the point** of the assessed contributions on the agenda of the 16th meeting of States parties and to thank UNODA for the regular updates on the status of financial contributions to the Convention.

Two year ago, the confidence in the institutional structure of our Convention was restored by taking a decision on strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU. It is the occasion to underline the importance of the work done by the ISU.

Concerning **the future of the Convention and its functioning**, we welcome the implementation of the *decision on strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU* adopted by the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the States Parties in order to maintain transparency, predictability and accountability as to strengthen the relationship between the State Parties and the ISU (*Implementing Support Unit*) by the current system of a four-year work plan, yearly budget, yearly pledging conferences and a financial security buffer.

I would like to thank you, Mr President, for the successful **pledging Conference** in February.

As you know, Belgium contributed to the **financial security buffer** with a substantial amount of 330.000 €. We thank State Parties for their contributions to this financial security buffer.

We take note that together with the contributions from other States Parties to the financial security buffer, the objective of ensuring that the financial security buffer reaches one year of ISU expenditures related to core support was met by the closing of 2017. We take note as well that taking into account the expenditures estimated for core support of the ISU in 2018, CHF 502 762 shall be retained in the financial security buffer.

In line with the *decision on strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU*, the surplus funding can be allocated to 2018 budget and work plan of the ISU for enhanced support.

The confidence in the institutional structure of our Convention is restored but we have to remain vigilant regarding the **fulfillment of the financial obligations** in due time by all the State Parties. It is essential for the good functioning and the future of the implementation of the Convention.

Thank you, Mr President.

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