

Convention on Cluster Munitions, Intersessional Meeting 16-18 April 2013

Session on General States and Operations, Establishment of the ISU

Statement by Austria

Thank you, Mr. Coordinator,

We would like to express our gratitude to the Norwegian Presidency and the Coordinators on General Status and Operations for their outstanding efforts on facilitating an agreement on the financing of the Implementation Support Unit that will finally allow States Parties to fully implement the decision on the establishing of the ISU as adopted by the States Parties at their Second Meeting in Beirut in 2011.

On the question of financing of the ISU – the one outstanding issue concerning the implementation of the decision of the 2 MSP - the Austrian position in the deliberations has been primarily guided by the following considerations:

- The financing model to be agreed should ensure operational effectiveness and efficiency, sustainability and predictability as well as ownership by all States Parties. In this regard, we should also well take into consideration the lessons learned from the experiences with other Conventions, in particular the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. And we would like to thank the ISU for their useful background paper in this regard.
- It is for these reasons that we deem it essential that certain core functions of the ISU to be established would be based on a sustainable and predictable financing model that reflects ownership by all States Parties.
- We also recognize and appreciate the efforts that the Presidency and the Coordinators have put into striving for the maximization of efficiency and a slim architecture of the ISU and the reductions achieved in the calculations of the funds needed for a core budget on this basis. And we recognize that there will be limits as to how far one could go with cuts while at the same time having to ensure the full implementation of the decision of the 2 MSP regarding the establishment of the ISU.
- We also thank Switzerland for their generous offer of in-kind contributions via the GICHD.

This being said, we welcome the draft decision that the Presidency has presented for the 4 MSP regarding the establishment of a CCM ISU and we would be happy to support it. We strongly hope that an agreement can be found at the 4 MSP that will allow the ISU to be fully functioning at the earliest possible date.