Mr President,

I would like to first thank you and your team for the excellent work you have done to consolidate and update the existing financial rules in this Convention. We also appreciate your efforts to explore options to improve the working relationship between High Contracting Parties and UNODA. We look forward to adopting both these key documents today.

The UK supports the initiative to establish a Management Board to strengthen the relationship between High Contracting Parties, the ISU and UN ODA. We must approach this in a spirit of cooperation to enable a structured means for consultation that will improve decision making on finances.

The CCW is an integral part of efforts to regulate conflict, and so it is important to ensure that it is financially sustainable. It is disheartening to see that despite progress on financial measures since the Fifth Review Conference in 2016, the matter of finances remains a key topic on the CCW agenda. Financial liquidity and proper financial management are crucial to ensure value for money and accountability. The United Kingdom supports the full implementation of agreed measures to bring the CCW back onto a predictable and sustainable financial footing. We are hopeful that by the time we reach the next review cycle, we will be able to see tangible progress in this area.

I would like to stress, however, that financial rules alone will not provide a way out of this situation. All participating states must pay their invoices on time, and in full. We call on all participating States to settle any outstanding amounts without delay. For States that cannot do so, we urge you to engage with the Chairperson and Financial Resources Management Service at the earliest opportunity to enable better financial planning on all sides.

Thank you Mr President.