



**CHAIR
NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT
GENEVA CHAPTER**



MEETING OF THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS WHICH MAY BE DEEMED TO BE EXCESSIVELY INJURIOUS OR TO HAVE INDISCRIMINATE EFFECTS (CCW)

Geneva, 21 - 23 November 2018

General Statement on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and other States Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons by the Delegation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations Office in Geneva

Agenda Item 14: Issues related to the Implementation Support Unit

Agenda Item 15: Financial issues related to the Convention and its annexed Protocols

Geneva, 22 November 2018

Mr. Chairman,

1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the States Parties of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and other States Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW).
2. NAM recalls the Decision 6 adopted by the Fifth Review Conference, quote “To include on the agenda of the annual Meetings of the High Contracting Parties the item “Financial issues related to the Convention and its annexed Protocols” and to consider at the next such meeting efficiency and cost saving measures and a report to be prepared by the Chairperson elect in consultation with High Contracting Parties, the Implementation Support Unit and United Nations Financial Resources Management Service on working within the Enterprise Resource Planning System (UMOJA), and to invite the Implementation Support Unit to present to each such meeting a biennial budget for consideration by High Contracting Parties.” End the quote.
3. In this regard, the Group of NAM is of the view that it will be necessary to adopt efficiency and cost saving measures in consultations with all High Contracting Parties in order to address the current financial situation of the Convention.



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4. The Group takes note on the “Report submitted by the Chairperson on the further measures that could be considered to improve the stability of the Secretariat’s support to the convention and on financial issues related to the Convention and its annexed Protocols”, contained in Document CCW/MSP/2018/7. The Group appreciates the efforts undertaken by the Chairman for the preparation and drafting elements of the decision on financial issues.
5. The Group of NAM believes that any measures adopted will be essential to address the immediate funding situation and to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Convention.
6. NAM is of the view that those measures should be operational as soon as possible.
7. We understand that the measures proposed to address the current situation of this Convention and any other measures to address the situation in other Disarmament instruments should be consulted and adopted by its States Parties.

Mr. Chairman,

8. The Group of NAM is concerned with the possible impacts of the proposed financial measures on the participation of member States and, ultimately, on the perspectives of universalizing the Convention.
9. NAM recognizes the importance of increasing the financial sustainability of the Convention.
10. With regard to the proposal of establishing contingency measures on cutting costs, NAM understands that they refer only to exceptional circumstances and should be considered on a case by case basis, according to those circumstances, by all States Parties.
11. The financial challenges must be dealt with, but they are transitory. The measures taken to address them should not undermine the Convention in the long run.
12. The Group of NAM express its deep concern on the continued lack of adequate representation from NAM countries in United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), the movement requests the Secretary General and High



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Representative to undertake steps to ensure balanced and equitable representation in that office.

13. The Group deeply appreciates the excellent secretarial support provided by UNODA. The Group believes that it is important to retain the institutional memory of the Secretariat. The Group would like to receive additional clarification and official information on the following issues:

- a) Update on the situation of the ISU.
- b) Impact of UMOJA on the staffing and the operation of the ISU as well as the operation of the Convention and its meetings.
- c) The financial burden and its impact in States Parties contributions.

Mr. Chairman,

14. The Group of NAM and Other States Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) look forward to engage constructively to consider and review proposals with a view to reach a consensual decision.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.