



Permanent Mission of Italy
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First Committee of the 77th UN General Assembly
Disarmament Machinery
Joint statement on behalf of
Colombia, Iraq, Italy, Poland and Republic of Korea

delivered by Mr. Tancredi Francese,
Deputy Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament

New York, 27 October 2022

Mister Chairperson,

I have the honor of speaking on behalf of the Chairpersons of the Disarmament Conventions: Colombia, for the Anti-Personnel Mines Ban Convention; Iraq, for the Cluster Munitions Convention; Poland, for the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons; Republic of Korea, for the Arms Trade Treaty; and my own country Italy, for the Biological Weapons Convention.

We wish to highlight the seriousness of the financial difficulties affecting the Disarmament conventions that hampers the proper functioning of the disarmament machinery.

As we all know, in the past years meetings which had been agreed to by all States Parties were curtailed, due to a lack of funds, which included sacrificing the interpretation of our meetings and the translation of the official documents. In addition, the precarious financial situation also threatens the mere existence of some ISUs, which are essential to implementing and strengthening the Conventions that they service.

Given these problems, we deeply appreciate and commend the efforts undertaken in the past by the successive Presidents and Chairpersons of these Conventions to address this financial crisis. They led inclusive and transparent processes aiming at the adoption of new financial measures to discourage nonpayment and keep these Conventions afloat.

Although these efforts are welcome, financial problems have been recurring and it is widely recognized that temporary measures are inevitably and ultimately insufficient.

The financial issues that are endangering the advancement of our work and the credibility of the Disarmament Conventions require a lasting solution. The only sustainable option is to address nonpayment and make sure that arrears are paid on time and in full.

We recognize that States are required to pay ahead of meetings for these to take place. For the conventions serviced by the UN, this is part of the current system that has been devised and agreed to by the Member States, including using UMOJA and IPSAS for UN finances. UMOJA and IPSAS were introduced to increase transparency and sustainability of the UN financial system. Their introduction is not the reason why our work has been hampered.

In this context, Mister Chairperson, we would like to recall that some measures have been considered by the State Parties to discourage nonpayment.

We will continue to monitor with concern the financial status of the Conventions. We will encourage State Parties to consider additional measures with a view to a financially sound disarmament architecture.

Ultimately, we once again call upon States to ensure that they pay on time and in full, and that all debts to the concerned instruments are settled as soon as possible.

As long as there are arrears, financial problems will persist. Hence the importance of measures addressing the issue of non-payment specifically.

I thank you.