

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Agenda Item 10 – International Assistance

BEGINS

Thank you Mr President for allowing me to take the floor. Further to our earlier joint Statement, we would also like to make some remarks in our national capacity.

The UK would like to thank Ambassador Higginson, the VTF selection committee, the Secretariat and VTF donors for their work in support of the VTF. As the chair outlined yesterday, the VTF continues to demonstrate its central importance to the full implementation of the treaty and has achieved much in spite of the Covid-19 pandemic. We have been honoured to serve on the VTF selection committee since its creation and are pleased to confirm that we seek re-selection for the next two years. We encourage States to use the fund by submitting project proposals.

In response to the VTF Chair's presentation yesterday, the UK would like to reiterate that the extent to which a VTF applicant has met its financial obligations to the ATT should be taken into account when assessing applications. This is in line with the Guidance Document for the VTF Selection Process. As we have consistently noted, we are deeply concerned regarding the dire financial situation of the Treaty and without all States meeting their financial obligations in full and on time we need to look at all options to encourage States to comply with their financial obligations. To this end, we support the remarks made by the Netherlands [and others], that it is only right that state compliance with all ATT commitments, including financial commitments, is taken into account, not as a primary, but as a secondary selection criterion when assessing ATT VTF fund and sponsorship programme applications.

We note the option of States to exploit the option to enter into a financial arrangement and encourage all States in arrears, that are not able to pay their financial obligations in full, to engage with the Secretariat and consider entering into a payment plan. In our view, States entered in a payment plan would not be considered in arrears for the purpose of the selection process.

ENDS