Mr. President,

I support the statement by the European Union and its Member States and will add comments in a national capacity.

Over the past three years, the UK has been honoured to work alongside other States to play a constructive and active role on the Selection Committee. We remain committed to supporting the Committee to fulfil its mandate.

We welcome the number of bids approved in this year’s VTF cycle and look forward to seeing the impact that these projects will have. We encourage states that were not successful in this cycle to review the feedback, and consider submitting a revised bid next year.

We are pleased to see that over the years many states – the UK included – have generously donated to the VTF. This funding has enabled targeted support that underpins effective implementation of the ATT.

The priority must be to use the VTF to fund credible projects that are likely to deliver meaningful outputs supporting Treaty implementation, without duplicating work of other programmes.
To maximise high-quality assistance in future cycles, we believe it would be beneficial to explore ways to further support States in producing quality bids. This could be addressed as an aspect of ongoing outreach work, in line with the VTF Outreach Strategy.

We endorse the VTF Selection Committee report and its recommendations. The Guidance for Project Evaluation provides a consistent method to assess project outputs and will be a useful tool in the overall management of the VTF. We are also pleased to note that applications from States more than two years in arrears with their ATT financial contributions will be unlikely to receive positive consideration from next year. This emphasises the importance of States settling arrears as soon as possible.

Thank you, Mr. President