Mr Chair,

The UK aligns with the comments made on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. I would like to add some comments in a national capacity.

As many have already said here today, this Convention is suffering because of long term and fundamental financial problems. It is clear that we cannot solve these without measures that will address the main root cause: late and non-payment of contributions.

The package of financial measures to address the fundamental problems of late and non-payment introduced in 2017 under the UK Chairmanship, and the proposals put forward by last year’s Chair, can still play a key role in improving the financial situation and stability of the Convention – but like all measures, implementation is key.

Mr Chair, the UK thanks you for your non-paper on Proposed Financial Measures. The steps you set out are constructive. We welcome in particular the focus on addressing non-
payment and delayed payment, encouraging States to pay early and establish a schedule that enables the CCW to function effectively.

The UK is open to considering all proposals to help relieve cash flow problems. We could support the establishment of a voluntary working capital fund to provide stability to the revived Implementation Support Unit, although this fund must not be used to cover the debts of HCPs that have not paid their dues. It is vital that the terms of reference for this fund are clearly defined; it should consider, for example, a mechanism to allow HCPs to withdraw donations from the fund. We could also consider a review point at the 2021 RevCon. We look forward to discussing how we can take these measures forward with you and other HCPs.

As for the UN FRMS proposal, the UK strongly contests the unilateral practice introduced in the NV of 1 April of not closing the accounts until all assessed contributions have been received. This is contrary to established practice and the financial rules of our Convention. We will not countenance any measure in the CCW that allows the accounts to be held open indefinitely, and credit due to HCPs that have paid their assessed contributions to not be calculated or returned.

Financial liquidity and proper financial management are crucial to ensure value for money and accountability. We need to ensure we deliver realistic, concrete proposals to address the long-standing issues of late and non-payment. But above all, we must all live up to our obligations, which includes paying contributions in full and on time.

Thank you