



Arms Trade Treaty 5th Conference of States Parties

Geneva 26-30 August 2019

Australia – Statement on Financial Contributions

Australia extends its thanks to the Management Committee, the President and the Secretariat's for their efforts to find a long term solution to the Treaty's financial difficulties.

It is vital if the good work of the Arms Trade Treaty is to continue, that States Parties fund its operations. Accordingly, we encourage all States Parties with arrears to rectify this situation as soon as possible.

We understand the rationale behind the Management Committee's recommendation that a reserve fund be established with funds sourced from voluntary contributions.

While we do not believe that a reserve fund would be viable long term due to its dependence on voluntary contributions and we are concerned that it would in effect subsidise States Parties who do not pay their assessed contributions, sending the wrong message to those States Parties who have not paid their contributions, we will not block consensus on this and other proposed financial measures.

We support the President's decision to suspend voting rights to States Parties who are in arrears for two or more years as required under financial rule 8(1)d.

Ultimately, the most effective solution to the Arms Trade Treaty financial problems are the payment in full and in a timely manner of assessed contributions by all States Parties.