

CSP4: International Assistance: UK Statement

Mr. President,

I would like to support the remarks made on behalf of the European Union and its Member States and add a few comments in a national capacity.

Over the past two years, the UK has been honoured to play a constructive and active role on the Selection Committee and remains committed to supporting the Committee to fulfil its mandate. As a member of the selection committee, the UK has experienced at first hand and fully appreciated the excellent efforts of Ambassador Biontino and the ATT Secretariat in driving and streamlining the operations of the VTF and managing the two bidding rounds.

We are very pleased to see that many states have generously donated to the VTF. Without funding, the work needed to underpin effective implementation of the ATT could not take place. The UK is one of the leading donors to the VTF because we believe it is essential that states who need it are provided with well-targeted support to help them meet the ATT's obligations.

It is now important to encourage states to make use of the VTF. In doing this, we also need to continue to ensure the VTF receives and supports bids that are credible with meaningful – and attainable – objectives. We must therefore continue to promote the VTF and to ensure that the VTF operates in a complementary way that does not duplicate the work of other programmes.

Let me finish by saying that we endorse the report and its recommendations, and are keen to continue our support the VTF's work directly, and therefore we have submitted an expression of interest in remaining on the selection committee.