



Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention
9 February 2004

**Update on the Implementation Support Unit
by Ambassador Martin Dahinden
Director of the GICHD**

Mr. President,
Dear friends and colleagues,

It seems like only yesterday when you, the States Parties, agreed to provide the GICHD with the mandate to establish the Implementation Support Unit.

However, we now find ourselves in the third year of the ISU's operations.

At this stage in the maturity of this important mechanism, you may think that ISU operations have become somewhat routine.

This is far from the case.

This year for the Convention is anything but routine.

With a Review Conference – *the Nairobi Summit on a Mine-Free World* – on the horizon, the ISU has responded accordingly to ensure that it meets both your existing and ongoing needs and your enhanced needs for support in advance of this important event.

The ISU has been kept busy since the Fifth Meeting of the States Parties supporting our activist Presidency – our friends from Thailand. As well, support has been provided to the Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs who have heeded the 5MSP's call to ensure that the Intersessional Work Programme provides sufficient opportunities to exchange information in advance of the Review Conference.

In addition, however, the ISU has responded to the additional information requirements of States Parties in advance of the Review Conference as well as the need to provide support to the President-Designate and Secretary-General-Designate.

One concrete initiative taken by the ISU to support your work is the Nairobi Summit web site.

By visiting either nairobi summit.org or reviewconference.org you will find up-to-date information on preparations for the Review Conference.

The maintenance of the Convention's documentation centre also continues to be an important element of the ISU's work.

While we continue to build the physical collection of documents in our offices – in a resource centre which is available to you – since the 5MSP, an important emphasis has been placed on making as many documents available on-line – in order that anyone with Internet access can obtain them anywhere.

In terms of finances, I will recall for you – as was done by the Ambassador of Thailand in a letter sent to you in November – that when you agreed to the mandate for the ISU, you indicated that “the States Parties would endeavour to assure necessary financial resources were provided for the ISU's operations.”

In this regard, I am pleased to report that since the 5MSP, contributions to the ISU Trust Fund have been received from Hungary, the Czech Republic, Italy, Sweden and Thailand.

In addition, I have been notified that additional contributions can be expected from at least two other States Parties.

With that said, I would like to ask the Manager of the Implementation Support Unit if he has anything to add.
