



**Intersessional Work Programme
Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention
31 May 2002**

**Report on the Functioning of the Implementation Support Unit
by the Director of the GICHD**

When I last reported to you on the activities of the Implementation Support Unit, the Unit had been in operation for less than two weeks.

While the Unit is still new, I believe that already significant steps have been taken towards fulfilling the aim of providing a focused basis of support, permitting broader and more effective participation by States Parties and relieving States Parties – particularly the members of the Coordinating Committee – of administrative and routine functions.

In a manner consistent with the duties of the Unit as outlined in the President's Paper which served as the basis for the establishment of the Unit, please allow me to highlight some of the activities of the ISU over the past four and half months:

The main focus of the ISU's efforts has been to assist the Coordinating Committee in its deliberations surrounding the identification of ways to ensure the ongoing effectiveness of the Intersessional Work Programme.

Not only has the ISU provided support to these discussions, but it also has assisted in implementing the outcome of them.

For example, outcomes of these discussions included the Coordinating Committee establishing a rigorous work programme for itself and making a commitment to deliver to States Parties a comprehensive package of information for these meetings. The ISU was extremely active in supporting these actions.

The ISU has also been active in supporting all facets of the President's duties and in providing support and advice to the President-nominee. This has included supporting efforts on their part to ensure effective preparations are undertaken for the next Meeting of the States Parties.

An important element of the ISU's mandate is to undertake communications and liaison functions related to the Convention. Foremost has been to communicate and liaise with the States Parties, particularly those that do not at present serve on the Coordinating Committee. Many of you as representatives of States Parties have made use of the ISU as an information resource and I hope you continue to take advantage of this service.

Of course the liaison activities of the ISU also extend beyond the States Parties. The ISU clearly recognizes the importance of the partnership with the ICBL, the ICRC, the United Nations and other organizations and has made a point of ensuring frequent and open communications with these actors.

Significantly, the communications and liaison functions of the ISU have extended beyond the borders of Geneva. For example, at the request of various parties, the ISU Manager has made presentations and provided information on the implementation process to States Parties and prospective States Parties at the regional seminar in Bangkok, to officials in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and to the Landmine Monitor global researchers meeting.

With respect to the element of the ISU's mandate that calls for the establishment of a documentation resource facility, a number of steps have already been taken and it is my intention that significant progress will be made in time for the Fourth Meeting of the States Parties.

Overall, I believe the ISU – in a very short time – has demonstrated its value to the implementation process and has provided a meaningful service to States Parties.

Next steps for the ISU, which is currently staffed by a full-time Manager, Mr. Kerry Brinkert, and a half-time administrative assistant, Ms. Véronique Movilla, is to hire an individual on a temporary basis to coordinate the establishment of the documentation centre. In addition, the ISU manager will take steps over the next couple months to establish a position for a junior officer to ensure that such a position can be filled in time for the Fourth Meeting of the States Parties.