

Update on the Implementation Support Unit

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I wish to acknowledge all the kind words directed to the ISU by so many delegations.

My staff and I appreciate this as much as we appreciate the mangos and cashews from Guinea Bissau, the sweets for Jordan, the tea for Sudan and the other food products from around the world.

It is heartening to know that so many delegations are concerned with the sustenance of the ISU staff.

We also appreciate your kind words as much as appreciate the opportunity to support your important work and to contribute to the advancement of the aims of the Convention.

Since the ISU began its operations on 14 January 2002, many more States Parties have come to understand and become intimately familiar with how the ISU can assist States Parties in carrying out their work as Co-Chairs or Co-Rapporteurs, the advice and support that the ISU can provide to States Parties in implementing the Convention, the information that the ISU can furnish on the Convention, and other aspects of work in support of your work.

Many are less familiar with, or don't understand, how the operations of the ISU are financed.

When the States Parties agreed to mandate the establishment of the ISU, they agreed to assure that, on a voluntary basis, they would provide the resources necessary for the operations of the unit.

Near the end of each year, as Director the ISU, I consult the Coordinating Committee on a budget for the subsequent year.

If there is general support for the annual ISU budget, it is my assumption that the Coordinating Committee also has confidence that aggregate voluntary contributions for the subsequent year will be commensurate with costs.

The budget for 2008 amounted to approximately CHF 945,000. In 2008 voluntary contributions were received from the following States Parties: Albania, Australia, Austria, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Malaysia, Norway, Qatar, Slovenia, Spain and Turkey.

I am heartened that such a diverse number of States Parties had such confidence in our support to you that they provided funds to enable us to do our work.

However, I must report to you that while our 2008 budget totaled approximately CHF 945,000 and while actual costs incurred in 2009 were almost precisely on budget, coming it at CHF 951,000, contributions received amounted to just over CHF 604,000 – or a shortfall of about CHF 350,000.

Because there was a carryover of funds from 2007 to 2008, in 2008 the ISU's operations did not incur a deficit.

However, with a budget for 2009 that again totals about CHF 945,000, resources greatly in excess of those provided in 2008 will be required if the ISU will be able to carry its operations without incurring a deficit.

If I have inadvertently confused my audience by including such a range of figures into my statement, let me present a conclusion to you in clear terms:

The ISU, the way you know it, will not be able to continue providing the same level of services, support, advice and assistance to the States Parties if additional and sustainable resources are not provided to fund its work.

That is, you will need to make a choice regarding what kind of ISU you want after 2009 and how you fund its operations.

Your choices are as follows:

- If you continue providing resources that do not match the costs of your demands for services, it will be impossible to provide the quantity of services that you have come used to.
- Or you could assure that the resources necessary to fund the operations of the kind of ISU that you desire are provided, either through the existing voluntary method or through another method.

Fundamental to my approach to directing the ISU from the start is to respect that the States Parties are the masters of this process.

This also applies to the decisions that go to the heart of the ISU, your ISU. Therefore, the matter rests in your hands. Please know, though, that there are implications regarding what actions you take.

Again, I appreciate your confidence in our work as much as I appreciate doing it.

Again, I thank you for this and again thank you for the wonderful food products from around the world.