
**Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention
on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling,
Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel
Mines and on Their Destruction**

14 November 2018

English only

Seventeenth Meeting

Geneva, 26-30 November 2018

Item 9(h)i of the provisional agenda

Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention

Implementation Support

Report on the activities, functioning and finances of the Implementation

Support Unit and presentation of a work plan and a budget for the 2019

activities of the Implementation Support Unit

Interim Report

**2018 activities, functioning and finances of the Anti-
Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support
Unit (1 January-31 October 2018)**

Submitted by the Director of the Implementation Support Unit

I. Background

1. At the 2001 Third Meeting of the States Parties (3MSP), the States Parties endorsed the President's Paper on the Establishment of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) and mandated the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) to establish the ISU. The 3MSP also encouraged States Parties in a position to do so to make voluntary contributions to support the ISU. In addition, the States Parties mandated the President of the 3MSP, in consultation with the Coordinating Committee, to finalise an agreement between the States Parties and the GICHD on the functioning of the ISU. The GICHD's Council of Foundation accepted this mandate on 28 September 2001.

2. At the 2010 Tenth Meeting of the States Parties, the States Parties endorsed the final report of the ISU Task Force and, in doing so, adopted the Directive from the States Parties to the ISU, ensuring that the ISU is directly responsible to the States Parties while it continues to be hosted by the GICHD. In taking these actions, the States Parties agreed that the ISU would "report in written form as well as orally on the activities, functioning and finances of the ISU to each Meeting of the States Parties or Review Conference, and to informal meetings under the Convention as appropriate." In addition, the States Parties agreed that "an audited Annual Financial Report (...) for the previous year and a preliminary Annual Financial Report for the present year shall be submitted by the ISU to the Coordinating Committee and subsequently to each Meeting of the States Parties or Review Conferences for approval."

3. At the 2015 Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties (14MSP) the States Parties adopted the *Implementation Support Unit Work Plan and Budget 2016-2019*. Furthermore, the 14MSP adopted a *Decision on strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU* which, in part, established a financial security buffer and measures related to



the management of expenditures related to core support of the ISU and of the financial security buffer.

4. The *Decision on strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU* also established that early in each year a conference of States Parties shall be held to collect pledges and contributions in order to obtain an overview of funds that can be expected for the current year as well as for the foreseeable period.

5. At the 2017 Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties (16MSP) the States Parties adopted the *Implementation Support Unit Work Plan and Budget 2018*. As of 31 October 2018, contributions have been received from the following 18 States Parties – Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Jordan, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand and the United Kingdom. In addition to these contributions, additional States Parties pledged support to the ISU during the pledging conference held on 27 February 2018.

II. Report

Mandate #1: “Prepare, support and carry out follow-up activities from formal and informal meetings under the Convention including Meetings of the States Parties, Review Conferences, Amendment Conferences, intersessional meetings, Standing Committees, the Coordinating Committee and the Article 5 Extension Request Analysing Group”

Mandate #2: “Provide substantive and other support to the President, President-Designate, Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs in their work related to all such meetings¹”

6. The ISU prepared, supported and carried out follow-up activities associated with five meetings of the Coordinating Committee. At the first meeting of the Coordinating Committee, on 26 January 2018, the ISU provided a briefing for Coordinating Committee members concerning the status of the Convention. The ISU also supported the arrangement of approximately 20 meetings of the Conventions four Committees during 2018².

7. The ISU provided support to the President and the Convention’s four Committees in developing annual work plans and establishing key objectives to meet their respective mandates. In doing so, the ISU supported the Committees in preparing and distributing initial communications to relevant States Parties including, at the time, the 31 States Parties³ implementing mine clearance obligations under Article 5 of the Convention, the 29 States Parties⁴ which have indicated that they have significant numbers – hundreds or thousands – of landmine survivors, the 3 States Parties⁵ implementing stockpile destruction obligations under Article 4 of the Convention and the 3 States Parties in which allegations of use of mines in territory under their jurisdiction or control persist.

¹ At the Third Review Conference, Standing Committees were replaced by four Committees and the mandate to analyse requests for extension under Article 5 was placed under the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. At the Third Review Conference, the structures of the Committees were altered and now include one Chair and three Committee Members. The Committee on Cooperative Compliance is chaired by the Presidency and has four Committee members.

² The Committee on Article 5 Implementation, Committee on Victim Assistance, Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance and the Committee Cooperative Compliance.

³ Afghanistan, Angola, Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mauritania, Niger, Oman, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

⁴ Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Uganda, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

⁵ Greece, Oman, Ukraine

8. The ISU provided support to the President in preparing and distributing initial communication to all States Parties concerning the President's mandate to lead efforts to mobilise sufficient resources to fund the operations of the ISU. In further supporting the President's efforts and in line with the decision of the 14MSP, the ISU provided support and advice to the President in planning and hosting the Third International Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention on 27 February 2018. The ISU also provided support on a number of follow-up actions including communicating with States Parties concerning their pledges and developing, finalising and distributing the final conference document as well as ensuring that the interventions from States and organizations at the pledging conference were uploaded to the Convention's website.⁶ Support to the President during the pledging conference included coordination with the office of H.E. Abdullah Abdullah, Chief Executive of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, who participated in the high level segment of the Conference.

9. Concerning the President's mandate on universalization, the ISU supported the President in distributing communications to the 33 States not party⁷ to request updated information on obstacles and efforts towards accession to the Convention. The ISU further supported the President in holding bilateral discussions with States not Party, including with the Permanent Missions of Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, by providing background material on their interactions with the Convention to date and status towards accession and by participating in these meetings. These meetings provided an opportunity for the President to emphasise the importance of adhering to the norms of the Convention and acceding to it as well as to encourage these States to participate in Convention related meetings and provide more detailed information on their position vis-à-vis the Convention and the steps they are taking to move closer to accession.

10. In addition to the above, the ISU supported the President in holding a meeting of the Informal Working Group on Universalization as mandated by the 15MSP including by preparing a number of documents on the status of Universalization, opportunities for progress and suggested actions in this regard. The ISU further supported States Parties with information on the position of States not party concerning the Convention.

11. The ISU supported the President in preparing and distributing a communication to all States Parties recalling the importance of submitting their annual transparency reports under Article 7 by the 30 April 2018 deadline as well as encouraging States Parties to employ the Guide to Reporting adopted by the States Parties at the 14MSP and its sample annex as well as to seek the support of the ISU on reporting matters.

12. On the margins of the 21st Meeting of Mine Action National Programme Directors and United Nations Advisors held on 13-16 February 2018, the ISU supported the Committee on Article 5 Implementation in holding bilateral meetings with nine States Parties including those that have indicated to the 16MSP that they would be submitting requests for extension of their Article 5 deadlines and States Parties in the process of implementing Article 5 (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Iraq, Mauritania, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan and Ukraine). The ISU also supported the Committee on Cooperative Compliance in organising bilateral meetings with Human Rights Watch and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) to discuss allegations of use of anti-personnel mines in areas under the jurisdiction or control of States Parties. Furthermore, the ISU supported the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance in holding bilateral meetings with States Parties that have participated and that are interested in participating in the Committee's individualised approach (Sudan, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe).

⁶ <https://www.apminebanconvention.org/presidency/third-pledging-conference-for-the-implementation-of-the-anti-personnel-mine-ban-convention/>

⁷ Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, China, Cuba, Egypt, Georgia, India, Iran, Israel, Kazakhstan, Korea, DPR of, Korea, Republic of, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Marshal Islands, Micronesia, Fed. State of, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar (Burma), Nepal, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Syrian Arab Republic, Tonga, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vietnam.

13. Additionally, the ISU supported the Convention's Special Envoy in his participation during the closing ceremony of the 21st Meeting of Mine Action National Programme Directors and United Nations Advisors. The ISU also took the opportunity of the meetings to hold a number of bilateral meetings with States Parties and partners.

14. The ISU provided advice and support to the President and the Committees in their preparations for the 7-8 June 2018 intersessional meetings. In doing so, the ISU supported the President's and Committee's efforts in finalising preliminary observations and other documents for the meeting, the development and distribution of the invitation and programme for the intersessional meetings, contracting of interpreters for the meeting and servicing officeholders, the States Parties and other participants to ensure a successful meeting. The ISU also provided support to the Committees in their efforts to communicate to States Parties, prior to the intersessional meetings, information to encourage and guide their participation. Additionally, the ISU provided additional communication support to the States Parties to ensure that the work of the Convention's Committees, of the President and of the States Parties remains visible. In total, over 294 delegates were registered to participate in these meetings representing 72 States and numerous international and non-governmental organisations.

15. The ISU supported the development of a side event calendar for the intersessional meetings by coordinating with States and organizations which expressed an interest in hosting a side event and coordinating with States and organizations to ensure participants had a clear calendar for side events including short descriptions and contact information for the side events. In total 6 side events were held on the margins of the intersessional meetings.

16. The ISU supported the President in the organisation of a *Thematic Panel: Implementation of Article 5 of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention*, led by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation concerning the implementation of Article 5 of the Convention. The ISU also participated as a panellist. The panel aimed to underline common understandings on the implementation of Article 5 as well as to start discussions on providing further guidance to States Parties on declaring completion.

17. A day prior to the opening of 7-8 June 2018 intersessional meetings, the ISU supported the Committee on Article 5 Implementation in holding bilateral meetings with representatives of States Parties that submitted or were expected to submit requests for extension in 2018 and 2019 (Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Croatia, Cyprus, Mozambique, Niger, Serbia, Sudan, Tajikistan and Ukraine). The ISU also supported the Committee on Victim Assistance in holding bilateral meetings with States Parties that have indicated having a responsibility for a significant number of landmine survivors (South Sudan, Sri Lanka and Sudan).

18. The ISU supported the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance in the preparations and hosting of the individualised approach for Serbia and Sri Lanka held on 7 and 8 June 2018, respectively, on the margins of the intersessional meetings. The ISU also supported follow-up actions including through support to the preparation of the draft report of the meetings. The ISU also supported the Committee in preparing for *individualized approach* meetings with Angola, Somalia and Zimbabwe to take place on the margins of the 17MSP.

19. The ISU support the President in the implementation of its mandate to propose a set of new office-holders for agreement by the 17MSP by distributing a communication from the President requesting expressions of interest and compiling expressions of interests from the States Parties.

20. The ISU supported the President with initial preparations for the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties (17MSP) including by developing a draft initial agenda and programme for the 17MSP and subsequently distributed, on behalf of the President, documents for presentation and discussion at the intersessional meetings. The ISU also established a page for the 17MSP on the Convention's website as well as distributed and collected expressions of interest to host side events and exhibits.

21. Following the intersessional meetings, the ISU provided support to the Committees and the President in issuing follow-up communication to relevant States Parties concerning the information contained in the preliminary observations of the President and the Committees and requesting any additional information or clarification on information submitted in order for the Committees and President to prepare their conclusions and recommendations for the 17MSP. This included, in particular, follow-up letters to States Parties with outstanding reporting commitments and other commitments in line with their obligations under the Convention, Maputo Action Plan and decisions made by States Parties on previously granted requests for extension.

22. Over the period of 31 March – 15 September 2018, the ISU continued supporting the Committee on Article 5 Implementation in implementing its mandate to prepare and submit to the States Parties an analysis of requests submitted by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Sudan and the United Kingdom including by supporting the Committee in its communication with the requesting States Parties as well as with expert organisations to request additional information and expert input following the submission of the requests. The ISU also supported the Committee in their engagement with States Parties that had been granted requests by previous Meetings of the States Parties and where required to act upon specific decisions made on their requests.

23. The ISU supported the Committee on Victim Assistance in addressing the Committee of the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disability during their opening session on 14 February 2018 as well as bilateral meetings with the Committee during an informal session on 19 February 2018.

24. The ISU also supported the Committee in hosting a retreat on Victim Assistance on 22 February 2018 which brought together the Committees and Coordinators of Victim Assistance of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the Committee on Cluster Munitions and the CCW to discuss collaborations. The retreat also saw the participation of Committees and Coordinators of the different conventions which address matters concerning cooperation and assistance. In addition, the ISU supported the Committee on Victim Assistance in hosting bilateral meeting with representatives of the World Health Organization on 29 June 2018.

25. The ISU further supported the Committee's substantive and logistic planning and preparations for the hosting of a Victim Assistance Expert gathering to be held on the margins of the 17MSP by supporting the preparations of an agenda, invitation, securing a room and interpretation.

26. In light of continued financial uncertainty concerning UN support to the Convention's meetings the ISU continued its support to the President by providing, for example, an estimated forecast of documents for the 17MSP containing proposals for cost saving measures.

27. The ISU initiated its support to the incoming President of the Fourth Review Conference by providing support in identifying dates for Convention meetings in 2019 and supporting its efforts in preparations to take over the role of President of the Fourth Review Conference.

28. As anticipated in the drafting of the Work Plan and Budget for 2018, the work of the ISU in support of the Committees ensured that office holders were able to perform in a manner that was satisfactory to the States Parties. Likewise, the support from the ISU contributed to ensuring a successful pledging conference and intersessional meeting.

Mandate #3: “Provide advice and technical support to States Parties on the implementation and universalization, including on the Sponsorship Programme, of the Convention”

29. The ISU provided advice to States Parties that indicated they would submit requests for extended mine clearance deadlines in 2018 (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Serbia, Sudan, the United Kingdom) and began doing so with respect to the States Parties that had indicated would need to or may need to submit requests for consideration by the Forth

Review Conference (Argentina, Cambodia, Chad, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Tajikistan, Yemen). This support included support missions by the ISU as follows:

- On 23-25 January 2018, the ISU carried out a mission to Croatia to provide advice and support to Croatia in the development of their Article 5 extension request.
- On 28 February – 2 March 2018 the ISU carried out a mission to Serbia to provide advice and support to Serbia in the development of their Article 5 extension request.
- On 18-21 March 2018, the ISU carried out a mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina to provide advice and support to Bosnia and Herzegovina in the development of their Article 5 extension request;
- On 18-21 March 2018, the ISU carried out a mission to Sudan to provide advice and support to Sudan in the development of their Article 5 extension request;
- On 18-24 June 2018 the ISU carried out a mission to Serbia to provide advice and support to Tajikistan in the development of their Article 5 extension request.
- On 23-27 September 2018 the ISU carried out a mission to Chad to provide advice and support to Chad in the development of their Article 5 extension request.
- On 22-26 October 2018 the ISU carried out a mission to Cambodia to provide advice and support to Cambodia in the development of their Article 5 extension request.
- On 23-25 October 2018 the ISU carried out a mission to Djibouti to provide advice and support to Yemen in the development of their Article 5 extension request.

30. In addition to these States, the ISU provided advice to a number of States Parties on the implementation of their Convention obligations and on reporting on their commitments under the Convention and Maputo Action Plan. Additionally, the ISU provided support to the States Parties by answering numerous inquiries concerning participation in the 27 February 2018 Second International Pledging Conference and the 7-8 June 2018 intersessional meetings.

31. The ISU also provided support to States Parties interested in presiding over a Meeting of States Parties by providing detailed information into the tasks and responsibilities of the presidency.

32. Through Enhanced Support the ISU provided support to Sri Lanka in the area of Victim Assistance through participation in the mid-term review of Sri Lanka's national mine action strategy and engagement of national authorities from 23-27 April 2018. The ISU continues its cooperation with Sri Lanka on this matter.

33. In addition, on 5-8 August 2018, through Enhanced Support, the ISU carried out a mission to South Sudan to address victim assistance matters and begin cooperation with South Sudan in support of their efforts to strengthen their Victim Assistance activities.

34. Over the course of 2018 the ISU participated in a number of discussions concerning the financial situation concerning UN support to the Meetings of the States Parties. The ISU also responded to numerous inquiries from States Parties concerning the financial situation concerning the convention.

35. The ISU supported the initial efforts of the Coordinator of the Sponsorship Programme in mobilising resources for the Sponsorship Programme in 2018 as well as on the strategic approach to using limited sponsorship funds available to the Programme for the intersessional meetings. The ISU also supported the Coordinator of the Sponsorship Programme in preparing invitation letters for 14 States Parties to request sponsorship for the 7-8 June 2018 intersessional meetings and supported the sponsorship of States to participate in the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties.

36. Over the course of 2018 the ISU engaged with Directors of Mine Action Centres on their reporting efforts by offering the support of the ISU to ensure that their reports are in

line with the Guide to Reporting adopted by the 14MSP as well as with the expectations of the Committee to facilitate the execution of their respective mandates.

37. The ISU provided initial support to new States Parties to the Convention – Palestine and Sri Lanka – in their preparation of their initial transparency reports under Article 7 due by 28 November 2018 (*180 days after the entry into force of this Convention for that State Party*⁸).

38. On 15 October 2018 the ISU briefed a delegation visiting Geneva of the State Council of Iraq concerning Iraq's commitments under the Convention and their efforts to draft National Mine Action Legislation.

Mandate #4: “Facilitate communication among the States Parties, and promote communication and information regarding the Convention towards States not Party and the public”

39. The ISU received and responded to numerous inquiries from States Parties, States not party and organisations regarding participation in the Convention's activities as well as on the status of the Convention and had the opportunity to engage with a number of partners and organisations including during Convention meetings in Geneva and on missions.

40. The ISU participated in the Pacific Conference on Conventional Weapons Treaties held in Auckland, New Zealand from 12-14 February 2018 which provided an opportunity for the ISU to hold bilateral meetings with a number of Pacific States on outstanding reporting obligations as well as on other matters such as national legislations and universalization. During the Conference, the ISU also provided a presentation on the Convention and status of implementation in the Pacific;

41. The ISU participated and delivered a presentation on the status of the Convention and the 2025 ambitions of the States Parties at the 15th International Symposium and Equipment Exhibition “Mine Action 2018” hosted by Croatia on 9-13 April 2018. The Symposium allowed the ISU to participate in a number of bilateral meetings with organization and State.

42. The ISU continued to make itself available to student groups and others that wish to learn about the Convention and its implementation processes including by offering presentations to High School students from Geneva on 1 March 2018; students of the Diplomatic Academy of Poland on 23 April 2018; students from North-eastern University on 30 May 2018, and; Masters Students from Geneva University on 6 June 2018.

43. The ISU provided a presentation on Victim Assistance during the Afghanistan Donor & Implementing Partners Coordination Workshop for Mine Action which took place on 9-11 April 2018. On 10 April the ISU also participated as a panellist during a “*Public Event including men and boys with disabilities in Afghanistan: How does life change after stepping on a landmine?*” which took place at the Graduate Institute during an evening event.

44. The ISU offered a presentation to donors during a donor seminar hosted by the GICHD on 24-26 April 2018 concerning the Convention's mine clearance obligations and the ambitions of the States Parties of reaching completion by 2025.

45. The ISU participated and offered a presentation during the “Consultative meeting on improving access to assistive technology in the Eastern Mediterranean Region” organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO) in Islamabad, Pakistan, from 7-9 May 2018.⁹

46. The ISU participated and offered a presentation during “A mine-free world: challenges and opportunities in realising the 2025 aspirations” held on 16-18 May 2018 at Wilton Park. This event brought together a number of participants representing non-

⁸ Excerpt from Article 7 Transparency Measure of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

⁹ Travel and accommodation for participation in this event was covered by the WHO.

governmental organisations, commercial organizations, and international organization and nation authorities to discuss the aspirations of 2025 and other matters concerning the implementation of Article 5.

47. On 10 October 2018 the ISU was invited to provide a presentation to the Sub-Committee on Security and Defence of the European Parliament concerning the status of implementation of the Convention.

48. The ISU provided additional communications support to the States Parties including during the 27 February 2018 Third International Pledging Conference and during the 7-8 June 2018 intersessional meetings. Furthermore, the ISU continued to update and enhance the Convention's website, including by establishing content for the Third International Pledging Conference and intersessional meetings. The ISU put considerable effort into revising content on the Convention's website (www.apminebanconvention.org). The ISU continues its efforts in redesigning its website.

Mandate #5: “Keep records of formal and informal meetings under the Convention, and communicate, as appropriate, the decisions and priorities resulting from such meetings to States Parties and other stakeholders”

49. In 2018, the ISU continued to make available information related to the outcomes of the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties, collecting outstanding statements and uploading of statement and presentations offered by States and organisations to the Convention's website.

50. The ISU collected statements from delegations during the Third International Pledging Conference making them available online and communicated the outcomes of the Third International Pledging Conference to States and organisations through the distribution of the Final Report of the Conference.

51. The ISU also ensured that the volume of documents and statements generated at the 7-8 June 2018 intersessional meetings were collected and made available on the Convention's website.

Mandate #6: “Liaise, and coordinate as appropriate, with relevant international organisations that participate in the work of the Convention, including the ICBL, the ICRC, the UN and the GICHD”

52. The ISU met on several occasions with partners including the European Union, the ICRC, the ICBL, Humanity and Inclusion, Mines Advisory Group, Norwegian People's Aid, the HALO Trust, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), Mine Action Review, the GICHD and others to discuss collaboration in supporting implementation and universalization of the Convention.

53. The ISU met with other organizations that wished to have additional information or clarification concerning the Convention's legal parameters. In particular concerning discussion on “improvised explosive devices”.

54. The ISU continued carrying out its commitments as observer on the International Mine Action Standards Review Boards as well as its commitment as a member of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action of the UN as well as the Inter-Agency Support Group for the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The ISU also participated in meetings of the “informal working group on the implementation of the Convention”.

55. The ISU continued to liaise with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), including by attending relevant portions of and supporting the Committee on Victim Assistance in delivering statements to the Thirty-fifth session of the Human Rights Council.

III. Extra budgetary activities

56. In support of the President's universalization mandate and with the support of the European Union Council Decision on the Implementation of the Convention, the Convention's Special Envoy and ISU Director travelled to Sri Lanka on 4-8 February 2018 to meet with the Sri Lanka President, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Prime Minister and the equivalent of the Minister of the Interior in charge of demining. The Special Envoy used these bilateral meetings to ask Sri Lanka to promote the Convention among States not party in South Asia including through the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

57. Furthermore in support of the President's Universalization mandate and with the support of the European Union Council Decision on the Implementation of the Convention the Convention's Special Envoy and ISU Director travelled to Myanmar on 28 May – 1 June 2018 to meet with the Minister of Defence and the Minister of International Cooperation of Myanmar to encourage Myanmar to take steps toward accession to the Convention. This meeting follows Myanmar's declaration to the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties of their decision to halt the use of anti-personnel mines.

58. Under the EU Council Decision in support of the Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the Maputo Action Plan the ISU supported the following workshops:

- 26-28 September 2018: victim assistance national stakeholder dialogue in Baghdad, Iraq.
- 8-19 October 2018: mine clearance stakeholder dialogue in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- 10-11 October 2018: victim assistance national stakeholder dialogue, Kampala, Uganda.
- 29-30 October 2018: mine clearance stakeholder dialogue in Dakar, Senegal.

59. The Stakeholder Dialogues sought to support these States Parties in the implementation of their Convention and Maputo Action Plan commitments.

IV. Gender and diversity:

60. In 2018, the ISU continued to implement its gender and diversity action plan, which aims to ensure consistent gender and diversity mainstreaming in all ISU activities. Examples of how the ISU seeks to achieve this goal include:

- advising those being supported by the ISU in convening meetings, workshops and conferences on the importance of ensuring, to the extent possible, that both men and women of different ages and backgrounds, including women and men with disabilities, are able to participate and that there is gender balance in terms of panellists;
- conducting accessibility verifications prior to engaging in the use of any meeting facility;
- proposing that invitation letters to meetings, workshops and conferences encourage diverse participation;
- ensuring that the principal tools used by the ISU in supporting States Parties continue to take into account age and gender;
- advising States Parties in preparing Article 5 extension requests on the collection and analysis of sex and age disaggregated data and information; and continuing to place an increasing emphasis on ISU staff using gender and age sensitive language that promotes a positive and inclusive image of women and men with disabilities.

61. The ISU recognises the importance and is committed to ensuring that gender and diversity issues are considered in every aspect of our work.

62. In 2018, in cooperation with the Sponsorship Programme Coordinator, Australia, the ISU strengthened the language concerning substantial participation during the Convention's informal and formal meeting in sponsorship letters.

V. Staffing

63. As of 5 October 2017, the staffing of the ISU consisted of three staff positions amounting to 2.6 full time equivalent staff positions: Director (100%), Implementation Support Specialist (60%) and an Implementation Support Officer (100%).

64. Since 1 April 2018 the ISU staffed the position of Implementation Support Officer to support the implementation of "Enhanced Support" for Victim Assistance in accordance with the ISU's four year work plan. In accordance with the *Decision on strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU* adopted by the 14MSP, the position of Implementation Support Officer dedicated to the provision of "Enhanced Support" in 2018 is financed from surplus financial means not needed for the financial security buffer as decided by the 16MSP.

VI. Finances

Implementation Support Unit Work Plan and Budget 2018

65. The ISU's 2018 work plan projects expenditures for core support in 2018 totalling **CHF 502'762**. As of 31 October 2018, the ISU received contributions to its work plan totalling **CHF 634'471** from the following 18 States Parties: Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Jordan, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand and the United Kingdom. (See Table 1). In addition to these contributions, **CHF 11'300** was carried over from 2017. Expenses as of 31 October total **CHF 376'794** (See Table 2).

66. Additionally, the ISU's 2018 work plan projects expenditures for enhanced support in 2018 of up to **CHF 107'199**. Expenses as of 31 October 2018 total **CHF 48'417** (See Table 3).

67. In accordance with the "*Decision on strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU*", over the course of the first half of 2018, the ISU prepared quarterly reports to the Coordinating Committee on finances and activities related to the implementation of the ISU's 2018 work plan.

Extra Budgetary Activities

68. Since 2017, the ISU has been implementing an EU Council Decision in support of the Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the Maputo Action Plan. In accordance with the *Decision on strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU* adopted by the 14MSP concerning extra-budgetary support the ISU has engaged additional staff to fulfil the requirements of the European Union Council Decision project in favour of the Convention. Staff costs for implementation of the project are covered by the EU Council Decision. The project totals **CHF 2,303,274.47** to be carried out over a period of three years from 30 October 2017 – 30 October 2020.¹⁰

¹⁰ For the EU-project, the first intermediate report deadline is on 30 October 2018 with the reporting deadline set for 60 days following the end of the reporting period (29 December 2018). Thus, the financial information on the projects implementation will be incorporated into the ISU's final report. At present activities under the project are ongoing in accordance with the plan.

Financial Security Buffer

69. Concerning the establishment of a Financial Security Buffer, the “Decision on strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU” indicates that the budgetary estimates of the first four-year work plan and the yearly budget shall provide for the gradual build-up of a financial security buffer of an amount equivalent to one year of ISU expenditures related to core support. This aim has been achieved.

70. Additionally, the “Decision on strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU” indicates that shortly after the closure of the accounts of a given year, the ISU shall provide the Coordination Committee with the financial situation resulting from the implementation of the yearly budget of the preceding year. When contributions have covered the expenditures related to core support provided for in that budget and leave a surplus, that surplus shall be provisionally placed in the financial security buffer. Over the course of 2016, the ISU communicated with contributors to inquire about the use of their contribution in order to prepare for a possible surplus. Based on the results of these discussions and information provided by contributing States Parties, the surplus which was provisionally placed in the financial security buffer at the end of 2017 totalled **CHF 812,432**. (See Table 4).

71. The decision further indicates that, at the next occasion, as part of the yearly budget approval process, the Meeting of the States Parties or the Review Conference shall decide on how to apportion the surplus. The decision also indicates that expenditures related to enhanced support can be financed from surplus financial means not needed for the financial security buffer if the Meeting of the States Parties or the Review Conference so decides in the course of the yearly budget approval process.

Administrative support provided by the GICHD to the ISU and the States Parties in 2018

72. In accordance with the agreement on implementation support, which was signed by the 10MSP President and the GICHD Director on 6 September 2011, the GICHD continued in 2018 to provide infrastructure and administrative support for the operations of the ISU.

73. In addition, the GICHD continued to support the organisation of the intersessional meetings by covering the cost of the venue, interpretation, providing support staff as well as the administration of the Sponsorship Programme for the intersessional meetings.

74. Furthermore, GICHD support to the ISU includes human resources management, financial management, internal information management, office space and general logistics, information and communication services, travel services, conference management and website management. These support services are funded by Switzerland’s core contribution to the GICHD.

Table 1 - Financing of the ISU’s 2018 work plan

	<i>Contributions Received</i>	<i>CHF</i>
1.	Australia	196’252 ¹¹
2.	Austria	11’390
3.	Bulgaria	2’000

¹¹ Includes CHF95’000 of the 2017 - 2018 annual agreement with Australia allotted to 2018 and CHF 101’252 of Australia’s contribution in line the 2017 - 2018 annual agreement with Australia. For these agreements covering more than the calendar year, contributions received are adjusted at the end of the year.

<i>Contributions Received</i>		<i>CHF</i>
4.	Chile	5'342
5.	Costa Rica	4'853
6.	Croatia	1'000
7.	Estonia	5'693
8.	Finland	11'057
9.	France	14'588
10.	Germany	45'703
11.	Japan	75'539
12.	Jordan	941
13.	Netherlands	43'670
14.	Norway	36'739
15.	Sweden	56'700
16.	Switzerland	80'000
17.	Thailand	10'000
18.	United Kingdom	33'004
	Total Contributions	634'471
	Carry over 2017	11'300
	Total	645'771

Table 2 - Financial overview for 2018 (all amounts in CHF)

<i>Total contributions received</i>		<i>645'771</i>
Expenses	<i>Staff costs</i>	350'576
	<i>Staff Travel</i>	17'091
	<i>Communication and other support costs</i>	9'127
Total Expenditures to date		376'794
Forecasted Expenditures (end of 2018)		120'000
Total forecasted Expenditures		496'794

Table 3 - Enhanced support overview for 2018 (all amounts in CHF)

<i>Total amount allocated to enhanced support</i>		<i>48'417</i>
Expenses	<i>Staff costs</i>	44'661
	<i>Activities</i>	3'784
Total Expenditures to date		48'417
Forecasted Expenditures (end of 2018)		35'000
Forecasted amount allotted to enhanced support by 31 December 2018		83'417

Table 4 - Financial Security Buffer

<i>Allocation to the Financial Security Buffer 2015-2016</i>	<i>CHF</i>
Belgium	359'832
Estonia	2,624
Netherlands	12'065
Switzerland	10'000
Total contributions to the financial Security Buffer 2015-2016	384'521
Surplus 2016	225'440 ¹²
Surplus 2017	202'471
Total Financial Security Buffer at the end of 2017	812'432 ¹³
Forecasted amount allotted to enhanced support by 31 December 2018	-83'417 ¹⁴
Forecasted security buffer by 31 December 2018	729'015 ¹⁵

¹² At the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties the following decision was made “in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention and recalling the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties’ decision on “Strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU”, the Meeting approved the apportion of the 2016 ISU Trust Fund surplus in a manner that ensures that (a) the financial security buffer contains an amount equivalent to one year of expenditures related to core support as provided for in the ISU yearly budget and that (b) the surplus financial means not needed for the financial security buffer are allocated to expenditures related to enhanced support as provided for in the Implementation Support Unit 2018 Work Plan and Budget.

¹³ Pending the decision of the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties on its allocation.

¹⁴ Amount allotted by 2017 16MSP to enhance support in 2018 : CHF 107'199.

¹⁵ Pending the decision of the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties on its allocation.