

**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**

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**Eighth Meeting**

**Dead Sea, 18 – 22 November 2007**

**REPORT ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE  
IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT UNIT  
SEPTEMBER 2006 - NOVEMBER 2007**

Submitted by the Director of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining

**BACKGROUND**

1. At the Third Meeting of the States Parties (3MSP) in September 2001, 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 in support of 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 Foundation Council accepted this mandate on 28 September 2001.

2. An agreement on the functioning of the ISU was finalised between the States Parties and the GICHD on 7 November 2001. This agreement indicates that the Director of the GICHD shall submit a written report on the functioning of the ISU to the States Parties and that this report shall cover the period between two Meetings of the States Parties. This report has been prepared to cover the period between the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties (7MSP) and the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties (8MSP).

**ACTIVITIES**

3. The Nairobi Action Plan, adopted by the States Parties at the First Review Conference on 3 December 2004, complemented by the Geneva Progress Report, continued to provide the ISU with clear and comprehensive direction regarding the States Parties' priorities. Following the 7MSP, the ISU provided the President, the Co-Chairs, the Contact Group Coordinators and the Coordinator of the Sponsorship Programme with thematic food-for-thought to assist them in their pursuit of the priorities identified by the 7MSP. This helped enable the Coordinating Committee to elaborate the general framework for intersessional work in 2007.

4. The ISU provided ongoing support to the President, the Co-Chairs, the Contact Group Coordinators and the Coordinator of the Sponsorship Programme in the achievement of the

objectives they set for 2007. This involved the provision of advice and support, assisting with preparations for and follow-up from the April 2007 meetings of the Standing Committees, and making recommendations to the Sponsorship Programme's Donors' Group on linking administering sponsorship (enabling attendance) with supporting effective substantive contributions (enabling participation).

5. Certain Co-Chairs and Contact Group Coordinators again launched ambitious initiatives and the ISU responded accordingly. This continued to be the case with respect to the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance who sought to build upon the efforts of their predecessors by assisting the 24 most relevant States Parties in inter-ministerial efforts to enhance victim assistance objective setting and planning. Through project funding provided by Australia, Austria, Norway and Switzerland, the ISU was able to retain the position of **victim assistance specialist** in order to provide support to these States Parties in their inter-ministerial processes of establishing objectives and developing and implementing plans. Some degree of support or advice was offered or provided to each of these States Parties. In addition, 14 of these 24 States Parties received specialised **process support** visits.

6. The ISU also supported the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance in organizing a parallel programme during the April 2007 meetings of the Standing Committees which aimed to make the best possible use of the time dedicated by health, rehabilitation and social services professionals attending the meetings to the work of the Convention. The parallel program stimulated discussion and increased the knowledge of the expert participants on key components of victim assistance with a particular emphasis given, pursuant to the understandings adopted at the First Review Conference, to the place of victim assistance in the broader contexts of disability, health care, social services, and development. Seventeen health, rehabilitation and social services professionals representing their States took part in this programme with participation made possible both through the Sponsorship Programme and courtesy of interpretation services provided by the European Commission.

7. Providing advice and information to individual States Parties on implementation matters became an even more profound aspect of the ISU's work relative to previous years. Due to the priority States Parties have placed on the implementation of Article 5 during the period 2005 to 2009 and the decisions of the 7MSP concerning a process related to Article 5 extension requests, the ISU received an increasing number of requests for advice or support with respect to the mine clearance obligations contained within this Article. The ISU responded by developing a strategy to meet likely needs in this area, implementing it in part by briefing officials or supporting national workshops on preparing extension requests in the capitals of nine of the States Parties with Article 5 deadlines which occur in 2009.

8. The ISU also visited the capitals of two additional States Parties with deadlines in 2009 with a view to supporting the confirmation by them that they have fulfilled their obligations. As well, the ISU made its services known to all other States Parties with deadlines in 2009. In addition, with project funding provided by Norway, the ISU supported Chile and Norway – the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies – in organizing a seminar on the implementation of Article 5 of the Convention in Latin America. To reinforce its efforts on matters concerning the implementation of Article 5 of the Convention, the ISU established the new position of **Mine Action Implementation Specialist**, which was staffed as of 1 September 2007.

9. The ISU continued to provide substantial support to States Parties in fulfilling their Article 7 transparency reporting obligations. This included advising individual and groups of States Parties on their obligations and how to fulfil them, collaborating with the UNDP on developing advice for UN personnel to use in assisting States Parties in fulfilling their reporting obligations and supporting the work of the Article 7 Contact Group and its Coordinator.
10. The ISU also responded to numerous other requests for implementation support each month in addition to responding to requests for information from States not parties, the media, and interested organizations and individuals. In addition, the ISU fulfilled its traditional role of communicating information about the Convention, its status and operations at regional workshops convened by States Parties or other actors in South East Asia, the Middle East, the Pacific, South Eastern Europe, North Africa and Latin America.
11. The ISU provided support to States Parties which took advantage of opportunities in 2007 to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the key events during the Ottawa Process and the adoption and signing of the Convention. This support included preparing communications materials, making presentations at commemorative events, and, with project funding provided by Austria, supporting Austria in organizing a thematic symposium.
12. In 2006 it was recalled that the ISU's mandate states in part that the rationale for the unit is based on the support provided by the ISU being "critical to ensure that all States Parties could continue to have direct responsibility and involvement in the management and direction of the implementation process." On this basis, the ISU continued to support implementation and participation needs of States Parties that have special needs with one group of States Parties with special needs being small States. With project funding provided by Australia, the ISU implemented Phase 2 of its **Small States Strategy**, which involved supporting Australia and Vanuatu in convening a workshop in Port Vila which sought to address challenges in the pursuit of the aims of the Convention in the Pacific.<sup>1</sup>
13. The ISU provided its traditional substantive and organizational support to the President-Designate of the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties (8MSP), working closely with the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). In a manner consistent with the ISU's purpose of supporting the States Parties' efforts to implement the Convention and to fulfil their responsibilities related to the general operations of the Convention, a mechanism was established to enable donors to contribute funds to assist the 8MSP host country in fulfilling its responsibilities. The following States Parties made use of this mechanism: Australia, Austria, Canada, Germany, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland.
14. The ISU continued to collect a large number of pertinent documents for the Convention's Documentation Centre, which is maintained by the ISU as part of its mandate. To ensure greater accessibility to these documents, the GICHD used its core funding (i.e., funds other than those provided voluntarily by States Parties to the ISU Trust Fund) to establish a new physical structure for the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Documentation Centre in the premises of the GICHD. In addition, in response to priorities articulated by some States Parties, the ISU

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<sup>1</sup> See [www.apminebanconvention.org/smallstates](http://www.apminebanconvention.org/smallstates).

began work to house a comprehensive set of resource materials on victim assistance within the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Documentation Centre.

15. In 2007, the ISU continued to receive requests by those with an interest in other issue areas to learn from the experience of implementation support in the context of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

#### FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

16. As indicated in the President's Paper on the Establishment of the Implementation Support Unit and the agreement between the States Parties and the GICHD, the GICHD created a Voluntary Trust Fund for activities of the ISU in late 2001. The purpose of this fund is to finance the on-going activities of the ISU, with the States Parties endeavouring to assure the necessary financial resources.

17. In accordance with the agreement between the States Parties and the GICHD, the Coordinating Committee was consulted on the 2007 ISU budget.<sup>2</sup> The 2007 ISU budget was distributed to all States Parties by the President of the 7MSP along with an appeal for voluntary contributions.

18. At the 7MSP, the States Parties agreed on a process to assist them in considering requests for extensions including: (a) that in preparing "an analysis" of extension requests "the President, Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs, in close consultation with the requesting State, should, where appropriate, draw on expert mine clearance, legal and diplomatic advice, using the ISU to provide support;" and, (b) that all States Parties in a position to do so are encouraged "to provide additional, earmarked funds to the ISU Trust Fund to cover costs related to support the Article 5 extensions process." This aspect also was taken into account in the 2007 budget and in the appeal for financing distributed by the President of the 7MSP. Since the 7MSP, contributions for these purposes, totalling CHF 10,815, have been received from Australia, the Czech Republic and Lithuania.

19. In accordance with the agreement between the States Parties and the GICHD, the Voluntary Trust Fund's 2006 financial statement was independently audited by PriceWaterhouseCoopers. The audit indicated that the financial statement of the Voluntary Trust Fund had been properly prepared in accordance with relevant accounting policies and the applicable Swiss legislation. The audited financial statement, which indicated that the 2006 expenditures of the ISU totalled CHF 467,863, was forwarded to the President, the Coordinating Committee and donors.

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<sup>2</sup> Basic infrastructure costs for the ISU are covered by the GICHD and therefore not included in the ISU budget.

**Contributions to the ISU Voluntary Trust Fund  
1 January 2006 to 30 September 2007**

	Contributions received in 2006 (CHF)	Contributions received in 2007 <sup>3</sup> (CHF)
Albania	1'000	1'000
Australia	76'044	80'104
Austria <sup>4</sup>		89'802
Belgium	38'493	48'724
Burundi	600	
Canada	53'660	105'619
Chile	18'150	17'530
Cyprus	2'700	
Czech Republic	56'691	58'593
Estonia	2'340	4'056
Germany	23'357	24'229
Hungary	12'500	
Ireland		24'445
Italy	71'550	
Lithuania		10'000
Malaysia	5'162	
Malta	750	1'800
Mexico	6'250	
Netherlands	32'000	
Nigeria	3'630	
Norway	113'610	
Philippines	1'300	
Senegal	4'827	
Slovenia	6'496	
South Africa	5'305	
Spain	7'950	48'660
Turkey	1'250	1'753
Total contributions	545'615	516'313

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<sup>3</sup> As of 30 September 2007.

<sup>4</sup> The contribution received from Austria in 2007 was intended for the 2006 operations of the Implementation Support Unit.