

Background Paper and proposed Mandate

Evaluation of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the Mine Ban Convention

Background

In 2001, the Third 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 endorsed the President's Paper on the Establishment of an Implementation Support Unit. States Parties warmly welcomed the establishment, within the GICHD, of an Implementation Support Unit to further enhance the operation and implementation of the Convention. Since then, the ISU's tasks have been developed and amended according to the demands of the States Parties. The States Parties have expressed their appreciation for the manner in which the ISU is making a positive contribution to implement the Convention.

At the same time, the work to implement and ensure compliance of the Convention has in many ways evolved and matured, and the demands on the ISU have increased in quantity and changed in quality. As a result, the competence and capacity of the ISU has developed to respond to increasing demands by States Parties. Activities such as support for victim assistance efforts, which started as a separate project, have evolved into ongoing continuous implementation support that constitutes part of the ISU's everyday responsibilities; activities formerly financed through special project funds increasingly rely on the Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF). Moreover, there is an increasing demand from States Parties for additional support on other implementation issues, including issues under Article 5.

Between 2001 and 2007, the voluntary contributions for the ISU covered the expenses and the ISU VTF closed with a positive remaining balance. From 2008, however, as a result of increasing requests from States Parties the financial situation of the ISU presents challenges because voluntary contributions through the ISU Trust Fund do not cover the ISU's budget. At the same time, contributions received were lower than expected.

Proposed mandate and possible elements for Terms of Reference

Given the above, the situation of the ISU merits an examination. At the upcoming Second Review Conference in Cartagena, under provisional agenda item 9, an evaluation of the ISU is proposed. The States Parties should mandate a task force for the year 2010 to evaluate the present situation of the ISU and to present recommendations on the future of the ISU to the States Parties.

This task force should be composed of the present (Norway), outgoing (Switzerland) and incoming Presidencies (...) of the Convention as well as the Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs of the Standing Committees, the Contact Group Coordinators, the Sponsorship Programme Coordinator as well as other interested States Parties. The Task Force will be chaired by the present President. The group will decide on its own working methods, including the option of hiring an independent consultant.

In order to ensure a broad and comprehensive analysis the task force should take into account the views of major stakeholders of the Convention. In order to ensure accountability, the task force should conduct its work in a transparent manner by keeping all States Parties informed of its work.

The Task Force should present a preliminary status report to the Meeting of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention in June 2010 and present its final report and recommendations, in time for adoption at the Tenth Meeting of the States Parties.

23 November 2009

Terms of Reference

Evaluation of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

- The States Parties mandate a Task Force for the year 2010 to evaluate the present situation of the ISU and to present recommendations on the future of the ISU to the States Parties.
- The Task Force will be composed of the present (Norway), outgoing (Switzerland) and incoming Presidencies (...) of the Convention, the Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs of the Standing Committees, the Contact Group Coordinators, the Sponsorship Programme Coordinator as well as other interested States Parties. The Task Force will be chaired by the present President.
- The Task Force will decide on its own working methods, including the option of hiring an independent consultant.
- The Task Force will take into account the views of major stakeholders.
- The Task Force will conduct its work in a transparent manner by keeping all States Parties informed of its work.
- The Task Force will present a preliminary status report to the Meeting of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention in June 2010 and present its final report and recommendations in time for adoption at the Tenth Meeting of the States Parties.