

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

Fourth meeting of the ISU Task Force, 8 September 2010, Geneva.

Summary

The fourth meeting of the ISU Task Force was held on Wednesday 8 September at the Hotel Intercontinental in Geneva. Invitations for the meeting, including a draft agenda, had been sent to all States Parties to the Convention on 20 August by the Chair of the Task Force.

The Chair welcomed everyone and reminded the meeting that this was the first meeting of the Task Force after the submission of the final report of the independent consultant, Mr Tim Caughley. Upon submission, the final report was posted on the Convention's website together with other documents concerning the evaluation and the work of the Task Force. The Chair of the Task Force expressed initially her gratitude and appreciation for the excellent and high-quality work of Mr. Tim Caughley.

The meeting of the Task Force was divided into several parts. The meeting started with a presentation of the report by Mr. Caughley, followed by questions and comments. The meeting then proceeded with comments to the report presented, separately, by the Director of the GICHD, the ICBL, the ICRC, the UNMAT and the Director of the ISU. All presentations are attached to this summary.

The last part of the meeting was a private meeting with only members of the Task Force present. The Chair emphasised the need to be forward-looking and constructive, and to focus on the options identified in the consultant's final report and on how to take these further in order to arrive at a report and recommendations for the 10th Meeting of the States Parties.

In general, Task Force members expressed their satisfaction with and gratitude for the work of the independent consultant and the high quality of his report, which provided an excellent basis for discussions. Task Force members also reiterated their strong appreciation for the ISU, its Director and other staff, and for the high-quality and valuable work done by the ISU. States also expressed their appreciations for the support by the GICHD.

The institutional framework for the ISU

The discussion revealed a wide range of views on the institutional framework for the ISU. The majority of those who took the floor expressed the view that the current institutional set-up is largely satisfactory, but that some basic adjustments are needed. One State Party held the principled view that a fully independent ISU accountable to and driven/governed by the States Parties should be the objective. Several emphasised the need for more formalised clarity regarding the division of roles and responsibilities between the GICHD and the ISU, the need for direct reporting/responsibility of the ISU to the States Parties, the desirability of ensuring real ownership by the States Parties of the ISU, and the need to preserve the identity and visibility of the Convention and thus its Implementation Support Unit. The idea of a revision of the 2001 agreement between the States Parties and the GICHD including the mandate of the ISU was presented, as well as a proposal to have a separate agreement between the States Parties and the ISU.

The financing of the ISU

Again, the discussion showed a variety of views ranging from the wish to continue funding the ISU through voluntary contributions combined with intensified resource mobilisation, to moving towards mandatory assessed contributions to cover the totality of the ISU's budget, including those parts currently covered by Switzerland through the GICHD. Several emphasised advantages of moving wholly or partially towards a system of assessed contributions to ensure increased ownership by the States Parties, burden-sharing, predictability and sustainability. Arguments were made both in favour of adopting the UN scale of assessed contributions without adjustments, and in favour of looking at adopting ceilings and floors. Others advocated mixed solutions where parts of the ISU's budget could be covered through assessed contributions, and other parts through voluntary project funding or continued in-kind contributions through the GICHD. It was emphasised by some that moving towards assessed contributions would not necessitate any amendment to the Convention.

Tasks and responsibilities of the ISU

The general view held by the members of the Task Force was that the ISU has developed and evolved according to the wishes of the States Parties, and that there is general support for the activities conducted by the ISU. In addition, members expressed their great satisfaction with the high quality of the work done by the ISU. There was a discussion on possible ways to divide the ISU's work into different parts, in particular while considering hybrid funding models. Some felt that there was a difference between so-called secretarial support and direct support to individual States Parties such as advice on implementation of Article 5 and victim assistance. Others emphasised the intrinsic link between the in-country expert implementation support that the ISU provides and the ISU's ability to provide meeting support and substantive advice to for instance the Presidency and the Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs.

Several emphasised that the States Parties should be responsible for tasking the ISU, and for providing the ISU with the necessary means to perform those tasks, including in-country implementation support.

Conclusion

Through the discussion the members of the Task Force demonstrated great willingness to consider amendments and changes in order to ensure the best possible implementation support to the States Parties for the future, based on priorities established by the States Parties. Such amendments should ensure greater clarity in the lines of reporting, formalise division of roles and responsibilities, ensure the States Parties' ownership of the Convention and its Implementation Support Unit, and ensure sustainable and predictable funding for the approved work plan and budget.

The Chair reiterated her intention to consult widely with States Parties during the rest of September and October, including by looking into the possibility of conducting informal open-ended consultations in late September. Draft recommendations based on the work of the Task Force would be prepared for discussion at a fifth meeting of the Task Force, which the Chair suggested to hold on Wednesday 3 November, probably at another full-day meeting. There were no further comments on the process. The Chair underlined the importance of

arriving at a conclusion of the work of the Task force at the 10th Meeting of the States Parties, in accordance with the agreed Working Methods.

The Chair emphasised that she and her team were always available for any comments or questions. The Chair thanked everyone for their input and reminded them that she would follow the agreed procedure for circulating a draft summary of the meeting and subsequently posting the summary on the designated website.

Talking points for intro of final report on ISU evaluation 8 Sept 2010

Thanks for the time of many colleagues who have contributed their views, and I regret that I have not been able to consult in depth with every one

Thanks, too, to those who have already provided feedback

This leads me to three **preliminary** comments:

1 One aspect of the feedback has puzzled me – some have said that they had hoped for **recommendations** rather than **options**

But the Task Force in settling my terms of reference made it clear that it was the responsibility of the Task Force, i.e., essentially States parties, to make recommendations. The consultant was restricted to setting out options.

That is what I have done. It is now for the Task Force to decide which options, if any, are feasible and to turn them into recommendations for the 10th MSP

2 I need to remind the TF about another factor – the **rationale for the evaluation** [see extracts from APLC/CONF/2009/8/Rev.1 attached]

3 Finally, I need to point out that this is **not a zero-based evaluation** – not one which one begins with a clean sheet of paper. Instead it is based – as required by the terms of reference – on consultations conducted with SPs and stakeholders on the three core issues – the task and responsibilities, financing, and institutional framework of the ISU.

In total I consulted over a quarter of the SPs and all the stakeholders listed in the ToR. I hope I have accurately reflected the range of their views.

By way of **introducing** the contents of the report:

The **structure** is essentially: *Prelim* report = analysis of the growth in demand on the services of the ISU, and the ISU's and SPs' responsiveness thereto, discussed at the 3rd meeting of the TF.

Final report = views of SPs and stakeholders on the developments of the past and how to approach the future, especially if the financial underpinnings of the ISU were to deteriorate

Findings in essence

1 **High levels of satisfaction** - especially amongst SPs - with the **director and staff** of the ISU – a very clear-cut finding

2 A **general concern about funding**: ranging from *broader based considerations*, i.e., result of the global economic situation, pressure on public expenditure etc to the *specific* – the need to secure funding sources, failing which there would be a need to prioritise or extend the existing scheme for mandatory contributions. No specific proposals to rationalize the ISU were put forward to me, but there was a tension between those who wanted more effort on VA and those who thought that VA activities should be left for project funding by interested SPs. I'll come back to victim assistance work shortly.

3 A **reasonably widespread - but not universal - level of satisfaction** with the **institutional framework** for the ISU was evident. Undoubtedly a strong sense of gratitude for the material support of the GICHD to date, but less certainty in terms of the appropriateness of long term reliance on that support.

In other words, for the meantime – and in current economic climate – the Centre's support is valuable. The question for some is whether the ISU should sooner or later stand on its own feet. For others it would be sufficient simply to give the ISU a more distinct identity from the GICHD. But compared to placing the ISU on a sound financial footing, this was not seen as a primary issue.

Victim assistance

I need to make a point on **victim assistance** that is perhaps reflective of a broader consideration. Victim assistance has received an increasing prominence in the implementation of this Convention not only in its own right as an obligation stemming from article 6.3. You, the States parties as whole, have made it a priority, reflected in your action plans which have been prepared with your full participation and adopted unanimously. This level of commitment carries with it certain expectations, which rest on all Parties.

My broader point is that this Convention has been successful by virtue of a team effort and team spirit that is perhaps unique. The need has not gone away. Hopefully it will go away eventually given the goal of a mine free world. In the meantime, it remains highly important that priority setting through action plans does not become just hollow lip service that might erode the underpinnings of the Convention. There needs to be greater contestability in developing priorities and relating them to the budget.

Going back to the three findings, how are they reflected in the **options**?

The spectrum of options on the **institutional framework** should be self-explanatory. A couple of points, however. One of the five options, the one relating to possible synergies with the CCM. Too little is known of the needs of the CCM parties for me to have been able to elaborate this option with any precision, but I include it because so

many interlocutors mentioned it to me. Personally, I think that the scope for real synergies with financial impact is limited.

As for the option of a fully independent ISU, I have not included a specific costing because I have proceeded on the assumption that it would amount roughly to slightly less than current costs plus the GICHD in kind contribution. I say slightly less because I believe that there would be scope for some economies in the amount that notionally makes up that contribution.

As for the **financing** options, these appear convoluted I know, but they reflect the range of views expressed. If I **were** allowed to make a recommendation rather than just identify options, it would be that the SPs do not get bogged down in the detail of the financing options. I think that it is important to put the detail aside and concentrate on the bigger picture, on the principles.

That is – **how to assure the future of the ISU**. In my view, the first port of call for the Task Force in this regard is to establish whether there are adjustments that can be made to the existing system of funding to improve predictability of voluntary contributions.

If not, then it would be necessary to re-appraise priorities *or* explore an extension of the scheme of compulsory contributions in some shape or form.

If it is concluded that an extension of the existing mandatory contributions scheme is necessary, then the next considerations will be how far to extend it, and – as a detail, albeit an important one – how best to give effect to it.

Let me say this in a fairly frank manner.

The funding situation of the ISU is at the crux of the SPs' and stakeholders' response to this evaluation process and will be instrumental in ensuring the ongoing viability of the ISU.

And this brings me to my final point.

I have made a point of keeping the director of the GICHD and director and staff of the ISU informed on progress as well as the outcome of my evaluation. This process is an **unsettling** time especially for the staff of the ISU. This is inevitable, even though the evaluation has squarely confirmed the esteem in which they are held.

It is important for them to know, as far as possible, what the future holds. While it is healthy to conduct reviews of this kind, it is important to make them as decisive and time bound as possible. Where it is not possible to resolve all issues at the 10th MSP, it will be important to delineate clearly future considerations and their implications.

I wish you well

1. ... **The States Parties have expressed their appreciation for the manner in which the ISU is making a positive contribution to implement the Convention.**
2. **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. ...**
3. **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.**



Fourth Meeting of the ISU Task Force 8 September 2010:

Comments on the evaluation report of 1 September 2010

Ambassador Stephan Husy, Director GICHD

Introduction

- Thank you for the invitation to provide comments and thoughts on the ISU APMBC evaluation report. As a trustee of the States Parties, the GICHD is very much interested in this discussion.
- Thanks also to Tim Caughley for his thorough work and the in depth stocktaking.
- The report has been confined to the ISU. Other elements of the implementation mechanism like the Coordinating Committee, the Intersessional Work Programme and the Sponsorship Programme are being reviewed in different ways. They are intrinsically interlinked, and the GICHD is supporting all of them in one way or the other.
- The evaluation report illustrates well the functioning of the ISU and confirms the appreciation for the work of the ISU and the role played by the GICHD in establishing and hosting it.
- The main conclusion of the evaluation is very positive: Among APMBC States Parties and other stake holders, there is a high level of satisfaction with the ISU in terms of its support for the objectives of the States Parties as they have evolved since the Unit's inception.



Some considerations

- The success of the ISU demonstrates the flexibility of its mandate and of the Agreement between the States Parties and the GICHD on implementation support for the Convention. The composition and the working methods of the ISU have been adapted over the years in order to meet the evolving needs and expectations of the States Parties in the most efficient and effective way. The elaboration of an annual Work Plan is an example of such a development.
- A sensible and complementary distribution of work has been established with UNODA with regard to the secretariat functions for the APMBC. The ISU is facilitating in a dynamic way the legal and political processes which make the implementation of the APMBC a lively undertaking.
- The ISU has been designed to support the Conventions Presidencies, the Coordinating Committee and the Standing Committees. Independence of the ISU has been defined in the sense that it only follows the direction of the States Parties and that there is no interference from another side. Thus paragraph 6 of the Agreement between the States Parties and the GICHD states: "The ISU will in the performance of its substantive duties on implementation issues, receive direction from and support the work of the Coordinating Committee, ensuring ongoing input from States Parties into the work of the ISU." Paragraph 8 of the Agreement also states: "To maintain the independence of the ISU its staffing will not include personnel seconded by governments."
- Individuals are very important when it comes to providing services, and the ISU is an excellent team. Equally important is an enabling institutional environment. In that sense, the positive outcome of the evaluation is also an acknowledgement for GICHD's oversight and accountability, infrastructure and administrative support, expertise, and last but not least financial security,



in particular with regard to cash flow problems and the salaries of the ISU staff (they all have GICHD work contracts).

- The Director of the GICHD upgraded the original title of the manager of the ISU to Director in 2008 and delegated the responsibility for all substantive implementation support tasks. This includes communication and coordination with the Presidency of the Convention and the Coordinating Committee.
- The general GICHD budget is covering the infrastructure costs of the ISU as well as a range of support services, such as conference management, website, publications, travel services, human resource management, contracting, accounting, archives, telecommunication and IT. The ISU Director is part of the Management Board of the GICHD and takes part in the discussions on resource allocations. There is no case where the ISU could not perform a function because of lack of resources on the support side. On the contrary, the general support of the GICHD has unfailingly followed the expansion of the ISU.
- The GICHD was chosen in 2001 by the States Parties to establish and to host the ISU because of its independent status, its expertise in mine action and its prior involvement with the APMBC. The Agreement with the GICHD is a good deal for the States Parties as it basically assigns all rights to the States Parties and all obligations to the GICHD/ISU.
- There is always room for improvement, and it is important that institutions and persons are eager to learn from the past. I am convinced that this has been the case over the last nine years, and that it will be the case in the future. If there are issues that cannot be resolved directly with the ISU, the States Parties can always resort to the GICHD Director. Paragraph 17 of the Agreement between the States Parties and the GICHD says: "Wherever a clarification on the application of this Agreement is required, it should be discussed in a spirit of cooperation between the Coordinating Committee and



the Director of GICHD or be transferred for consideration to the States Parties”.

Conclusions

- As things go well, one should be careful with making changes. The perfect can be the enemy of the good. The ISU has been an adult for some time now, and its tasks are finite, although unfortunately they won't be completed in the near future.
- While the tasks and responsibilities of the ISU have evolved over the years, it has been possible to align the services of the ISU within the given framework. The ISU is fit for taking up the challenges of the coming years.
- There is no need for a change in the current institutional framework, as the alternatives – a stand-alone ISU or the transfer of the ISU to ODA – do not offer real advantages, but contain uncertainties, costs and drawbacks.
- What is needed is more predictability when it comes to funding of the ISU activities. While the assessed contributions for the UNODA services, and the infrastructure and administrative support of the GICHD to the ISU are reliable, there is a need for a broader and more predictable commitment with regard to the voluntary contributions. In order to enhance the spirit of ownership among the ABMBC States Parties, the budget and the work-plan of the ISU could be approved by the meetings of the States Parties. It should contain a contingency planning with prioritization of the activities, and the Coordinating Committee should adapt the budget during the year if there was insufficient funding, based on a close financial monitoring. Multi-year pledges would facilitate the planning task tremendously.
- As there will presumably not be more financial resources for mine action in the coming years, efficiency and the exploitation of synergies will be important. In this regard, it could be worth studying if with limited incremental



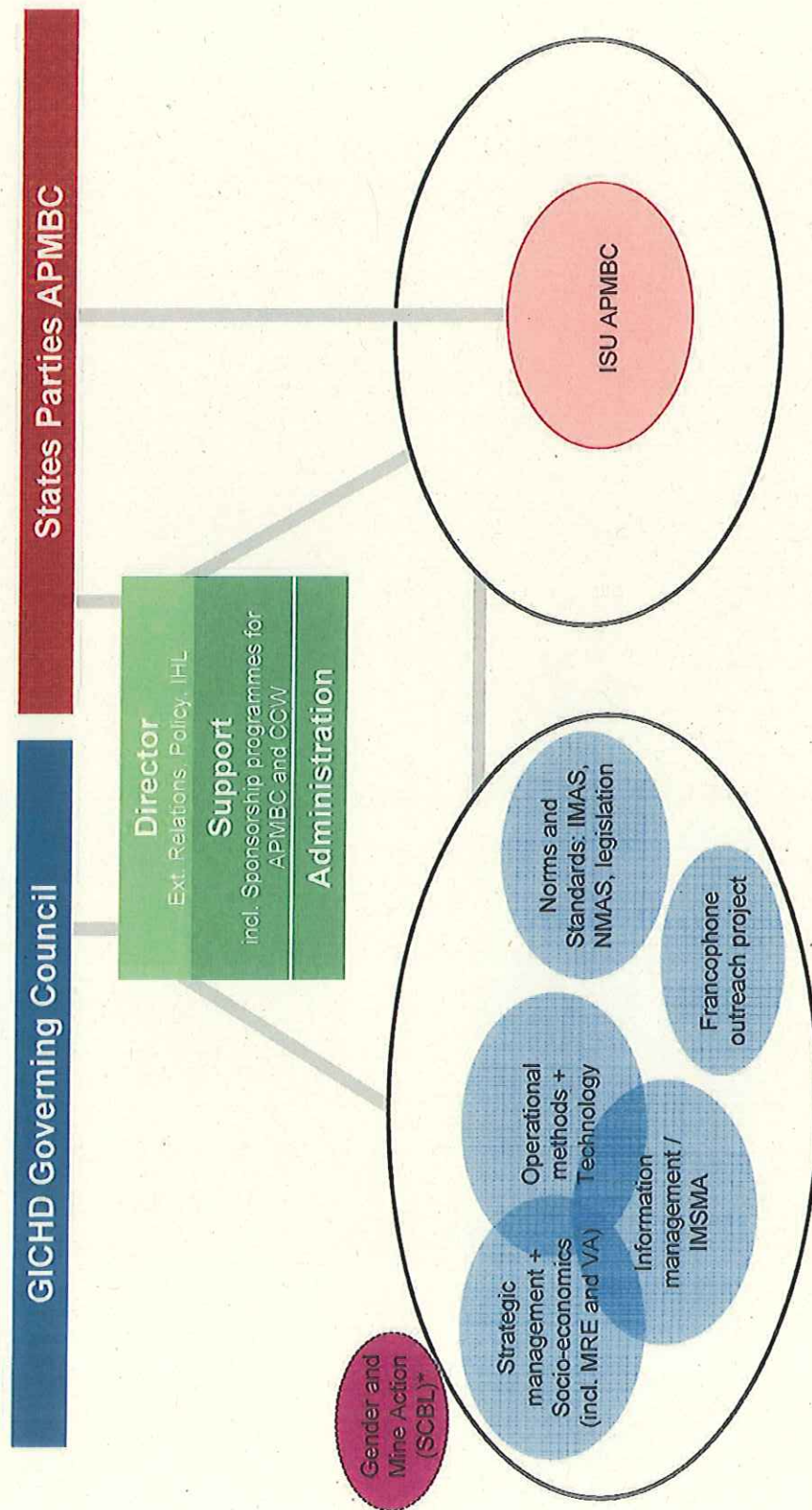
resources a possible ISU CCM could be hosted by the GICHD as well, or if even the ISU APMBC could also service the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which in many aspects contains the same or similar provisions as the APMBC.

- Today, GICHD's dedication for the full implementation of the APMBC and towards humanitarian disarmament in general is as strong as at the time of its foundation in 1998 and when it established the ISU in 2001.



GICHD | CIDHG

GICHD Organisation and Governance



Capacity building

*Independent programme,
hosted in GICHD offices

Legal and political process facilitation

AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE STATES PARTIES OF THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF
ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES
AND THE
GENEVA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMANITARIAN DEMINING
ON
IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT FOR THE CONVENTION

- 1 During the Third Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on Their Destruction in Managua from the 18th to the 21st of September 2001, the States Parties to the Mine Ban Convention endorsed the Paper on the Implementation Support for the Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines, as contained in Annex I to this agreement. States Parties warmly welcomed the establishment within the GICHD, of an Implementation Support Unit to further enhance the operation and the implementation of the Convention. States Parties expressed their appreciation to the GICHD for its co-operation in the establishment of this unit, encouraged States in a position to do so to make voluntary contributions in support of the unit and mandated the President of the Third Meeting, in consultation with the Co-ordinating Committee, to finalise an agreement with the GICHD on the functioning of the unit. (Final Report APLC/MSP.3/2001/L.7)
- 2 The Council of Foundation of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining accepted this mandate at its seventh meeting on 28 September 2001 and tasked the Director to conclude an agreement with the President of the Third Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Convention

MANDATE

- 3 The services GICHD provides to support the Mine Ban Convention include:
 - 3.1 preparing and supporting meetings of the Standing Committees and the Co-ordinating Committee, including writing summaries and facilitating follow-up activity;
 - 3.2 providing independent professional advice and assistance to the Co-ordinating Committee;
 - 3.3 establishing a documentation and resource database facility (on the Ottawa Process, Oslo Diplomatic Conference, Meetings of State Parties, SCEs, SCs and the CC).

IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT UNIT

- 4 The Director of the GICHD shall take all appropriate measures consistent with this Agreement to establish an Implementation Support Unit to carry out the duties related to the Mine Ban Convention according to Part B of Annex I to this Agreement and shall ensure that these duties are carried out. The Implementation Support Unit should remain small in number of staff.

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- 5 Where necessary, priorities shall be defined by the Co-ordinating Committee and the Director, in consultations with the States Parties. Such priorities may be reviewed on a regular basis.
- 6 The Implementation Support Unit will in the performance of its substantive duties on implementation issues, receive direction from and support the work of the Co-ordinating Committee, ensuring ongoing input from States Parties into the work of the ISU. The Director of the GICHD, or a representative, shall participate as an observer at meetings of the Co-ordinating Committee to ensure effective and close communications and co-ordination.
- 7 The personnel working in the Implementation Support Unit shall have the same status as other regular GICHD staff. Normal legal provisions as well as existing staff regulations and practices in GICHD apply to the personnel of the ISU.
- 8 The Director shall be responsible for the recruiting of staff members serving with the ISU. He shall consult the President of the Meeting of States Parties as well as the members of the Co-ordinating Committee. To maintain the independence of the ISU its staffing will not include personnel seconded by governments.

REPORTING

- 9 The Director of the GICHD shall submit a report on the functioning of the implementation support to the States Parties. This report is to be submitted at their annual meeting in written form. The report shall cover the period between two meetings of States Parties.
- 10 The Director may be invited by the President or the Co-ordinating Committee to make an oral report on the functioning of the implementation support at the intersessional meetings or on other occasions.

FINANCES

- 11 A Fund for voluntary contributions shall be established to finance the ongoing activities of the ISU. The Fund shall be administered in Swiss Francs. The relevant details are provided in Annex II of this agreement.
- 12 The annual budget for the ISU will be established by the Co-ordinating Committee and the Director of the GICHD.
- 13 The budget document
 - shall include figures for the forthcoming financial year;
 - shall, if necessary, indicate a set of priorities. These priorities shall be understood as guidelines in order to allocate available resources.
 - may be changed or amended at any time on mutual agreement.
- 14 The States Parties endeavour to assure the necessary financial resources. GICHD will assist in this effort.

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- 15 An annual financial report shall be submitted to the President /Co-ordinating Committee and to all donors. To assure transparency, the financial report shall be made available, upon request, to any government, interested institution and/or person.
- 16 The Fund shall be included in the GICHD accounting system and be audited by an independent auditing company on an annual basis. The auditing report shall be forwarded to the President, the Co-ordinating Committee and to donors.

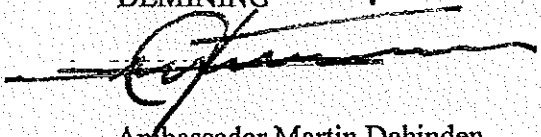
FINAL PROVISIONS

- 17 Wherever a clarification on the application of this Agreement is required, it should be discussed in a spirit of co-operation between the Co-ordinating Committee and the Director of GICHD or be transferred for consideration to the States Parties.

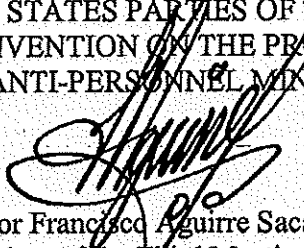
DURATION

- 18 This Agreement may be changed or amended at any time on mutual agreement.
- 19 The Agreement shall enter into force upon signature by both parties. It will remain effective for at least one year. Withdrawal from this Agreement can be effected after this initial period by six months written notice from either party.
- 20 Signed in the English and Spanish languages, on four copies, each text being equally authentic. In case of any inconsistency, the English version will take precedence.

For the
GENEVA INTERNATIONAL
CENTRE FOR HUMANITARIAN
DEMINEING


Ambassador Martin Dahinden
Director of the Geneva International
Centre for Humanitarian Demining

For
THE STATES PARTIES OF THE
CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION
OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES


Doctor Francisco Aguirre Sacasa
President of the Third Meeting of States
Parties, Minister of Foreign Affairs
of Nicaragua

Date: 7.11.2001

Date:

Annex I

Annex II of the Final Report of the Third Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on Their Destruction. APLC/MSP.3/2001/L.7.

ANNEX II

PRESIDENT'S PAPER ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT UNIT

Purpose and scope of this paper

This paper sets out the background to, and includes a proposal for the establishment of an Implementation Support Unit (ISU) as part of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD). This proposal, with its mandate to the GICHD for the establishment of the ISU, is being presented for the approval of States Parties.

Background

The Intersessional Programme of Work (ISP) was established by the First Meeting of the States Parties to the Treaty (Maputo, 1999). Since then, it has evolved into a very useful and critical element supporting the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines.

The success of the ISP has been founded on the work of a wide number of States Parties, as well as non-governmental organizations and international organizations, which have dedicated financial and personnel resources to supporting the implementation of the Convention; a particular weight has been absorbed by those States Parties representatives in Geneva who have served as Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs of the Committees.

In this regard, critical to the success of the ISP has been the contribution of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining. At that same time that States Parties agreed to the creation of the ISP, they also accepted the offer of the GICHD to provide administrative and logistical resources to assist the Programme. After the establishment of the Coordinating Committee (CC) during the Second Meeting of the States Parties (Geneva, 2000), the GICHD also provided assistance for the CC meetings. This assistance has been essential to ensuring the effectiveness and organization of the Intersessional Meetings, as well as the work of the Coordinating Committee.

We are now completing our second full year of ISP operations, and some lessons have been derived from the experience to date. Most importantly for the purpose of this discussion, it has become clear that the extent of our future success and sustainability of the process will hinge on ensuring adequate, but limited, continuing dedicated support for States Parties related to the ISP and implementation of the Convention.

Discussions to date

A paper entitled "Implementation Support for the Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-personnel Mines" was circulated during the Intersessional Week in May 2001. This paper noted the points above and proposed the establishment of a small unit, in accordance with the mandate of States Parties, that

would further enhance the operations of the implementation process and facilitate participation of all States Parties.

The Peruvian Co-Chair of the Standing Committee for Mine Clearance and Related Technologies addressed the issue during the Meeting of the Standing Committee on General Status and Operation of the Convention, urging the States Parties to take action to enhance the processes supporting the Treaty, including the Intersessional Programme of Work.

Such support was noted to be critical to ensure that all States Parties could continue to have direct responsibility and involvement in the management and direction of the implementation process. He noted that currently, the representatives of States Parties face significant personal burdens when taking on positions as Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs, and assistance is needed for them to more effectively meet the obligations of these positions.

By providing a more focused basis of support, by permitting broader and more effective participation of States Parties, and by relieving Parties of administrative and routine functions, a small dedicated support unit should enable a more efficient allocation of resources while contributing to the effective implementation of the Convention.

The proposal was made that the GICHD could be the appropriate entity through which to provide this enhanced support as this would build on existing efforts and require only a slight increase in staff and resources. The incremental resources could be funded on a voluntary basis by willing States Parties with the support of the GICHD.

This initiative was warmly welcomed and received wide expressions of support from participants at the SC Meeting. It was stressed that this support unit should be accountable to the States Parties through the Coordinating Committee, and should optimize the use of resources.

Since then, the Coordinating Committee has met several times and developed further the cooperation with the GICHD. The concept of the Support Unit is set out below in terms of the proposed mandate and duties of the Unit, management approach, and general financing issues:

A. Mandate to the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)

States Parties mandate the GICHD to establish an Implementation Support Unit to take care of issues related to the Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-personnel Mines in accordance with the duties approved by States Parties.

The services GICHD provides to support the Mine Ban Treaty will include:

- preparing and supporting meetings of the Standing Committees and the Coordinating Committee, including writing summaries and facilitating follow-up activity;
- providing independent professional advice and assistance to the Coordinating Committee;
- establishing a documentation and resource database facility (on the Ottawa Process, Oslo Diplomatic Conference, Meetings of State Parties, SCEs, SCs and the CC).

B. Duties of the Implementation Support Unit

The duties of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) as part of the GICHD are the following:

Coordinating Committee (CC) meetings:

- Providing basic secretarial support, sending out notices of meetings, arranging meeting rooms, note taking, etc.
- Administrative and other follow-up to CC meeting decisions and provision of advice, on request, to the President and CC Members on technical and institutional issues (interaction, coordination and synergy with other organizations, retrieval of data on practices, etc).

Current President and incoming President of the Meeting of States Parties:

- Providing support across all facets of the President's duties. This can include advice on technical and other issues, preparation of CC meetings, providing back-up and support for all liaison/interaction with States Parties, the ICBL, ICRC, the UN and other international organizations and agencies as well as media and communication support.

Standing Committees (SC)

- Providing basic secretarial support – sending out notices of meetings, arranging meeting rooms, note taking, etc.
- Providing advice, support and assistance, on request, to Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs.¹
- Administrative follow-up to SC meeting decisions and provision of advice, on request, to the President and SC Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs, on technical and institutional issues.

Communication and liaison

- Providing the support to ensure timely and consistent communication about the implementation process to all actors. This would include the preparation of media statements, organization of media briefings, preparation of briefing notes etc., and any communication that may be necessary for the current or incoming President to make.
- Providing back-up and support for all liaison/interaction with States Parties, the ICBL, ICRC, the UN, and other international organizations and agencies.
- Compiling contact lists etc., of actors involved in or interacting with the implementation of the Convention and keeping liaison channels active. This could include providing support to actors participating in the Intersessional Work, e.g., providing the public relations aspects of welcoming speakers, playing a coordination/information meeting place role as a one-stop location.
- Ensuring that the GICHD web site contains the latest information on the implementation process.

Sponsorship Programme

- Providing assistance in administering the sponsorship programme.²

Budgeting and planning

- Compiling the additional budget needed by the GICHD for the Implementation Support Unit as well as the planning for the years ahead based on the projection and analysis of Intersessional Work and other aspects related to implementation.

Documentation

- Collecting, collating, storing and retrieving documentation on the Convention and its implementation.³

C. Management of the Unit

The Director of the GICHD will be accountable to the States Parties for the work of the ISU and will submit an annual report on its functioning.

The ISU will operate under the Director of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining according to Terms of Reference to be agreed in accordance with the mandate of States Parties. These Terms of Reference will be developed and agreed between the President, in consultation with the Coordinating Committee, and the GICHD. The ISU will therefore be a part of the GICHD, receiving administrative, technical and logistical support and operating under the financial and administrative supervision of the Director.

Between Meetings of States Parties, the ISU will, in the performance of its substantive duties on implementation issues, receive direction from and support the work of the Coordinating Committee,

ensuring ongoing input from States Parties into the work of the ISU. The Director of the GICHD, or a representative, shall participate as an observer at meetings of the Coordinating Committee to ensure effective and close communications and coordination.

D. Financing arrangements

To finance the activities a Fund for voluntary contributions shall be established. The annual budget will be established by mutual agreement between the President/Coordinating Committee and the Director of GICHD.

States Parties will endeavour to assure the necessary financial resources. GICHD will assist in this effort.

An annual financial report shall be submitted to the President/Coordinating Committee and to all donors. To assure transparency, the financial report shall be made available, upon request, to any State Party, interested institution and/or person.

The Fund shall be audited by an independent auditing company on an annual basis. The auditing report shall be forwarded to the President, Coordinating Committee and to donors.

Initially, funds will be sought to support the staffing of one officer and one support staff for the Unit. An additional staff member may be added later as the workload evolves and as funds permit. Recruitment of staff would be the responsibility of GICHD in close consultation with the Coordinating Committee. To maintain the independence of the Implementation Support Unit, its staffing will not include seconded personnel.

Next steps

If States Parties agree, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining is hereby mandated to proceed with the establishment of the Implementation Support Unit in accordance with this proposal and the President is mandated to finalize an agreement with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining – in consultation with the Coordinating Committee – in accordance with the mandate and proposal hereby approved by States Parties.

¹ This is particularly relevant in supporting mine-affected/developing countries as well as other small delegations in their roles as some countries do not have representation in Geneva or may not be able to place as much staff and time on the issue as may be required.

² This would be a continuation of the existing sponsorship programme, funded by donors, and which has thus far been administrated by the GICHD.

³ There is currently no comprehensive collection of documents on the Ottawa Process, the Oslo Diplomatic Conference, Meetings of States Parties, SCEs, SCs, etc. This complicates any research that could be necessary in the implementation process as well as in preparation for SCs and Meetings of States Parties. Currently most of this information is collected in pockets in different countries and the intention would be to provide an accessible place to house the material.

Annex II

Fund for Voluntary Contributions

A Fund for voluntary contributions has been established. The relevant details read as follows:

UBS Geneva
P.O. Box 2600
CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland
Swift code: UBS W CH ZH 12A
Account no.: **FP 100 627.6**

ISU Evaluation Task Force

Intervention from the ICBL.
8 September 2011

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today, as well as be involved in the consultations carried out by the Independent Consultant for the evaluation of the ISU.

The report on the ISU is a remarkable work, and a needed contribution to enhance the work on the Convention. We believe it provides good and comprehensive information on the current status and work of the ISU that reflects a broad range of views, sometimes diverging. We are confident that States Parties will use it to take the decisions needed to ensure the sustainability of the ISU as well as its capacity to support to States Parties to implement the Convention fully.

It is not the role of the ICBL to comment on all aspects of the report in details, but I would like to share a few comments :

1. First reiterate the importance we attach to the existence and role played by the ISU since its inception.

When the Convention was brought about, the ICBL, namely Susan B. Walker, started working in Geneva and created that link between SP of the Convention, mobilizing diplomats on the need for implementation, and providing support to help them understand what was at stake. The creation of the ISU reinforced and added another dimension to this activity, and complementarity was build between the NGO approach and the one.

2. Over the years, the ISU's role increased as described in the report, and there is no doubt that a review of its mandate and activities, taking into account the evolution of the Convention, as well as the current economical and political environment would be needed.
3. In any discussion or review about the ISU's mandate, size and role, states should definitely take into account the role played by civil society, the ICRC and the UN . The role of outside organizations in promoting the implementation and universalization of the convention – though not in the scope of the evaluation – was only mentioned in passing.
 - o We believe any discussion of the ISU's mandate should take into account what is being already done by other actors, including civil society, in order to avoid confusion in roles as well as to ensure the most effective intervention/ activities from all stakeholders. For example, the ICBL staff and its member organizations (as well as the ICRC) also can and do lend support to states in many areas where the ISU is active. In addition, the ISU identifies itself as the “authoritative source of information on the Convention,” but we would suggest there are other authoritative sources, the Monitor being one of them.
4. In addition, states should consider what activities best fall within a “support unit” that is responsible to States Parties and what falls more naturally to independent non-governmental bodies to do.
5. If the Mandate of the ISU is to be reviewed (see heading 3 under Options, p. 71), the ICBL favors a variant that allows other stakeholders to participate.
6. The scripting referred to in the report is an issue for us, especially in the informal meetings, where we find the spontaneity that was so characteristic of the early years of the Mine Ban Treaty has all but disappeared. We very much agree with paragraph 59 on the need for leadership of States Parties in the running of the meetings.
7. In contrast with the report's findings, we are concerned that the scripting may at times stand in the way of new or possibly controversial issues from being raised.

8. We also feel that the large supportive role played by the ISU can create a degree of dependency and can take away the motivation of states to be more proactive. We do recognize its value to ensure the possibility for States Parties with limited resources and capacity, particularly here in Geneva, to be fully involved in the work of the Convention. We know finding the fine line is difficult, but we believe that a better balance should be sought in that respect and can be found.
9. In conclusion, and as we also suggested for an eventual CCM ISU, we believe the ISU should::
 - be responsible to all States Parties equally;
 - place full implementation and universalisation of the Mine Ban Treaty ahead of the interests of, or pressures from, any individual States Parties or organizations;
 - be free of heavy institutional bureaucracy and is run in a cost-efficient manner, with appropriate monitoring and evaluation of its effectiveness; and
 - work within a framework that values and encourages the active inclusion of civil society as partners in the universalization, implementation and monitoring of the Mine Ban Treaty and therefore invites contributions by and true cooperation with civil society.

SUMMARY OF THE MAIN ASPECTS OF THE ICRC INTERVENTION IN FRONT OF THE TASK FORCE ON THE ISU, GENEVA, 8 September 2010

The ICRC introduced its presentation by highlighting that the ISU has done an outstanding job over the last 8 years, not only in fulfilling its original mandate but also in taking on a great number of new tasks and responsibilities in the implementation of the Mine Ban Convention and the support to States Parties. However, given the large variety of tasks now assigned to the ISU, the ICRC considered it useful to take a global view and ask how all of these pieces fit together.

The ICRC addressed primarily the subject of the tasks and responsibilities of the ISU rather than the issues of financing of the ISU or its location, which it considers matters for States Parties. However, it did express strong support for a co-location of the MBC ISU and the CCM ISU, if the States Parties to the CCM decide to create an ISU.

Over the years, the ISU has taken on a multitude of tasks and roles in the support and the implementation of the Mine Ban Convention. In addition to the support given to States Parties in the preparation and running of meetings, the ISU has helped States Parties preparing article 5 extension requests, has helped the analyzing group analyzing the request and the Presidency drafting decisions on the requests. There is a potential risk of conflict of interest in carrying out all these roles at the same time. To avoid this potential conflict of interest, it might be possible to distinguish in the organisation of the ISU two distinct branches, one providing support for the organisation of the various meetings and decision-making under the Convention and the other providing support to individual States in terms of the implementation of their obligations under article 5 and victim assistance. A distinct branch for this type of support could also extend its services to CCM State Parties facing clearance and victim assistance obligations.

As mentioned in paragraphs 59 to 62 of the second part of the report, there is also a concern that the scripting done by the ISU of nearly all formal and informal meetings under the Convention risks inhibiting healthy debate. As highlighted by the Caughley report, it is important that more States Parties take fuller ownership for running the various meetings and engaging in issues of substance beyond their own national contexts. Similarly, trend towards the organisation by the ISU of almost all regional events has meant that most available funding for the promotion of the MBC is now channelled through the ISU. There is a need for a variety of actors to be active in the promotion of the MBC and for these actors to be involved more fully in the preparations of ISU sponsored events.

IACG-MA comments to the Report on the APMBC ISU Evaluation

General comments

1. The IACG-MA appreciates the work of the ISU since its inception, as well as the work done by the ISU Director. The ISU has ensured support to States Parties in the implementation of the Convention and has provided the assistance required by the Presidents of Meetings of States Parties (MSP) and Review Conferences, Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs of the Standing Committees and others to provide guidance in this process.
2. The IACG-MA acknowledges the efforts of the ISU in coordinating with relevant UN partners, particularly in the inclusion of UN inputs in relevant documents (e.g. annual progress report). However more could be done with respect to ISU visits to States Parties to assist in the implementation of the APMBC, where enhanced timely communication, coordination and cooperation between the ISU and relevant UN bodies, especially those in the field, is needed.
3. Moreover, as success of the ISU recommendations from field-based visits often depends on detailed follow-up activities of in-country long term support, often provided through the UN, an early involvement of all relevant stakeholders will contribute to ensure that those activities are realistic, relevant in a broader and sustainable manner, sufficiently financed and resourced and well coordinated.

Tasks and Responsibilities of the ISU

3. With regards to the different options in the report the IACG-MA, States Parties could consider the opportunity of reviewing the tasks and responsibilities of the ISU before the adoption of conclusive decisions regarding the future of the ISU. Such a review could be based on a needs assessment. This review is already mentioned in options (d), (e) and (f) in page 71 of the report.
4. Also, we don't see the need for victim assistance to be expanded, as the work would be better placed under other framework, for example the CRPD, given its cross cutting nature and the importance of not stigmatizing one victim over the other.

Institutional framework for the ISU

5. At this stage, the IACG-MA considers that the status quo modified option could be a helpful one during an interim period (pending on a needs assessment-based review of the tasks and responsibilities of the ISU).
6. The IACG-MA appreciates the Consultant's elaboration on the identity challenges of the ISU and would add that these probably present challenges also for the GICHD. States Parties may consider addressing issues of identity between the ISU and the GICHD within the context of the option of a status quo modified. We believe that further clarification on this matter would contribute to enhance communication, coordination and cooperation between the ISU and the UN.

The financing of the ISU

7. A review of the tasks and responsibilities of the ISU could also be useful for addressing issues related to the financing of the ISU. Decisions on finance source of the ISU could ideally be based on an assessment of needs linked to the tasks to fall under the responsibility of the ISU.
8. In addition to voluntary contributions, expanded mandatory assessed contributions to cover activities related to ISU support could be an interesting avenue to explore.
9. The IACG-MA and its members remain committed to work together with the ISU “field implementation” activities to ensure good planning, coordination and cooperation, especially bearing in mind that the UN is providing assistance in mine action to more than 40 countries and territories, most of which are to States Parties to the APMBC.
10. The continuity of transparency, sustainability and coverage of a comprehensive range of activities should be ensured when States Parties consider option for financial mechanisms.

Remarks to the ISU Task Force

Kerry Brinkert
Director of the Implementation Support Unit

8 September 2010

Check against delivery

I wish to thank the Task Force for inviting me to appear before you. It would be an understatement to say that the work of the Task Force is of great interest to me and my colleagues. Implementation support is our professional lives. But it is also something that we personally care deeply about. My colleagues and I never forget that our work plays a part in assisting States in fulfilling solemn commitments intended to improve lives and livelihoods and make the world a better place. As such, understandably we have views on the evaluation.

Before getting to them though, I would like to congratulate Tim Caughley on a job well done. Tim's job was not easy but he did it well. He succeeded in providing to you a comprehensive evaluation of the ISU and options for the way forward.

Normally a comprehensive evaluation and a detailing of options would be the cause for anxiety on the part of those being evaluated. In this case, I welcomed States Parties' idea to carry out an evaluation of the ISU. Sheree, Juan Carlos, Sophie, Parmdeep, Véronique and I are confident in our work. We know that our laser-like focus on carrying out our work in an efficient manner and on producing results is greeted with satisfaction by the States Parties. We understand that it is part of our DNA – part of our professional being – that what we do is in the service of the States Parties to the Convention and as such we have a task that no other actor has been assigned.

Consequently, every action undertaken under my direction since January 14th, 2002 has been firmly rooted in the ISU mandate. And we are clear that the finite resources that you have made available to us have been deployed in a manner consistent with the States Parties' priorities.

That we have had nothing to fear from the point of view of how we would be judged has been borne out by the evaluation report. The evaluation's "overall finding" is "that there are high levels of satisfaction with the ISU and with the manner in which its staff carry out their work." The evaluation report goes on to note that "not a single State Party or organisation consulted expressed any doubt about the need for the ISU" and "more than that, the level of admiration for the Unit's services, efficiency and all round professionalism was of the highest order." The report indicates that that "no one actually proposed any reduction of the Unit" and, moreover highlighted that "a strong wish was evident amongst mine-affected Parties that the ISU should be expanded, especially to increase its role on matters of victim assistance."

Again, I welcomed the evaluation because I was confident that it would affirm that my colleagues and I were doing a good job, that we were clear regarding why we were doing it and for whom, and, that we were on the right track. Affirmation has occurred. However, my confidence in the evaluation was not simply with a view to affirmation. Rather, I was and remain hopeful that the evaluation and the work of the Task Force offers the potential for implementation support in the life of this Convention to be updated and for the ground to be laid for successful implementation for the years to come.

Times have changed dramatically in the almost decade since the idea of an ISU was floated and since the States Parties agreed to mandate its establishment. In 2001 discussions on victim assistance were

at an infantile stage, marginalized in relationship to divisive issues of interpretation that were the pre-occupation of various organizations and what amounted to issues that were far from the concerns of landmine survivors. Today, you, the States Parties have gone through two rounds – in 2004 and 2009 – of codifying groundbreaking understandings on victim assistance, putting more words on paper regarding what you mean and what you will do on victim assistance than on any other area of implementation.

In 2001 the concept of Article 5 extensions was abstract and something that would be dealt with in a distant future. Today this is a real and complex matter for the States Parties to deal with and one that requires an intensive investment of time and energy on the part of States Parties' representatives.

In 2001, the following States were among the observers at the meeting when the ISU mandate was agreed to: Belarus, Greece and Turkey. Today, these States are parties to the Convention, they are demonstrating leadership and they are facing significant challenges in fulfilling their obligations.

In 2001 the Intersessional Work Programme was adrift and without focus and with the voices of the affected States Parties largely absent. Since 2001 the Intersessional Work Programme has placed a priority on hearing from affected States, providing them with the space to share their challenges, express their needs, and inform others where they stand in implementing the Convention.

The role of the ISU in this incredible evolution has been clear. We exist to support the States Parties to this Convention as they proceed in carrying out their obligations to comply with and implement their Convention. As such, the ISU is unique. Certainly other actors share the States Parties' aims and wish to support them to the extent that their governing bodies permit and to the extent that their interest in doing so remains strong. However, there is no other actor other than the ISU that exists with the singular purpose of implementation support to the States Parties to this Convention, to see the world through their eyes – your eyes – and to carry out no other action than those that are in the interest of the States Parties. Some tire of hearing me say that we are the servants of the States Parties. I will not stop saying this because it is so true. This has perhaps been illustrated most clearly when it comes to victim assistance, the most complex of the Convention's core aims.

When in 2004 the States Parties adopted their first set of ground breaking understandings on victim assistance, it was the ISU that stepped in – as one should have expected and as is central to our mandate – to respond to a clearly expressed priority. It was the ISU that, rather than pretending to duplicate the role of another, filled a void that only the ISU was able to fill – to provide advice and support to States Parties in translating complex understandings adopted in the context of a conventional weapons instrument into meaningful plans on the part of State entities that ultimately have responsibility for the matters that you have come to define as victim assistance. The ISU clearly does not, cannot nor should not be involved in actually directly assisting victims – this is clearly the realm of other competent actors. We do, though, clearly fill a role as the trusted advisor to States Parties in a manner that other actors cannot, particularly those who also play a role in monitoring, advocating and berating States.

Similarly, with respect to mine clearance, the ISU does not actually clear mines. But as with respect to victim assistance, the ISU has developed world leading expertise in an aspect of mine clearance. The ISU, again in acting upon the understandings adopted by the States Parties – that is, your words become our priorities – has filled a void in bridging the gap between what some consider to be abstract legal obligations and the operational steps that one would take to ensure that with confidence one has fully implemented obligations. We have done so now in numerous cases, collaborating with non-governmental or other organizations such as Danish Church Aid, Norwegian

People's Aid, the HALO Trust, the UNDP, the OAS or GICHD Operations, to deliver our comparative advantage as concerns the matter of mine clearance in the service of States Parties.

I wish to highlight our implementation support efforts in the areas of mine clearance and victim assistance because together they illustrate an important point: That is, it is not possible and it is artificial to draw a line between so-called field support and support to the implementation of the Convention at a multilateral level. These are two sides of the same coin. The multilateral efforts, which largely consist of meetings, are not ends in themselves. Rather, the Intersessional Work Programme, Meetings of the States Parties and other gatherings are means to an end with that end being the implementation of the Convention. Implementation by whom? By individual States Parties – individual States Parties that need support in translating what comes from the multilateral level into action at the domestic level and who value support in bringing national experiences and challenges to the attention of the multilateral level. Again, it is not possible to neatly delineate implementation support between what happens in Geneva and what happens on the ground in places like Cambodia, or Zambia, or Peru, or Uganda. They are inextricably linked.

And so, just as the Convention has evolved, so has the ISU, albeit in a manner that has never strayed from its mandate or from one of the strongly stated principles from the 1997 negotiating conference – that finite resources should principally be directed to the field and that therefore, in keeping with the 2001 decision to establish the ISU, the ISU should be small, which it is, despite the expressed wish of many States Parties, as acknowledged in the evaluation report, for the ISU to be expanded to better address evolving needs.

And while I am pleased with how the evaluation report considers our work to have been of a high quality, I do not want to suggest that you do nothing with the knowledge that is at your disposal. That we have nothing to fear regarding how we would be judged by the evaluation does not mean we have nothing to fear. Our only fear is that the Task Force would be too timid in taking what it is now aware of and acting upon it to address some difficulties that are real. Many of you have asked me what these difficulties are and what could be done to overcome them. These difficulties and the ways to overcome them relate to the institutional framework and to financing.

Institutionally the ISU is a part of the GICHD indistinguishable from any other part. While there no doubt have been advantages for the ISU to have been a part of another entity, that entity marches to the beat of a different drummer – its governing board and the Swiss Government as its dominant benefactor. Conflicts can and do arise and more are on the horizon. For instance, the ISU exists to support the States Parties' competent authorities in developing effective national approaches to implementation. The GICHD seeks to achieve the application of its approaches, products or methodologies within countries, but not necessarily with a focus on the national authority.

It may be that the GICHD is but one of many actors in a country and its support may be focused on but one of many operators within a country. The ISU can do its best when it can provide advice to a national authority on the basis of an assessment of all that it is going on and with an interaction with all relevant actors in a particular country. As such, the GICHD can be an object of our assessment, which, if it must be, will be a critical assessment. In a similar vein, the focus of the GICHD on a single demining operator within a particular country can lead to, and has led to, conflicts in terms of the advice being given. On the horizon, we can see scope for conflict – as well as the potential for a diminishment of confidence on the part of the States Parties in the ISU's work – given the proliferation of formal relationships established between the GICHD and various non-governmental advocacy organizations.

Let me be clear: My colleagues and I perhaps more than most appreciate and acknowledge the value of the role played by non-governmental organizations in the life of the Convention. The question I

am raising is not one of whether various actors should have roles, but rather of clarity regarding various roles. The ISU is clear that our role is to support States Parties and to see the world through their eyes. This is fundamentally different from the role played by NGOs, who have an important, but fundamentally distinct role of monitoring State behavior, advocating for changes in behavior and berating those whose behavior these organizations believe is not acceptable.

This points to an assertion which is contained within the evaluation report which may be read as a statement of a fact when in fact it is not; it is merely an assertion. The report quotes a document of the GICHD which asserts that “Neither the GICHD Director nor the GICHD Council of Foundation has any authority over the substantive activities of the ISU.” This is not entirely the case. According to the mandate agreed to by the States Parties and the 2001 agreement between the States Parties and the GICHD, the Director of the GICHD is responsible for all aspects of the operations of the ISU. There is no mention of the actions expected by the States Parties of the Director of the ISU or his or her staff, of their responsibilities and of the definition of their place, both vis-à-vis States Parties and vis-à-vis the GICHD. In practical terms, successive Directors of the GICHD have chosen what to inject into. And “substantive activities” can be open to interpretation with there is a risk for interjection into the substance of any particular matter when the interjection is disguised as administrative or procedural.

There is great scope for this Task Force to update or to complement the 2001 mandate and seek to update the 2001 agreement by clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of ISU and to specify the same for the Director of the GICHD. Am I advocating for what some would call a firewall? Certainly not. And I would be the first to note that significant value-added is provided by the GICHD Director in terms of financial oversight and in providing checks and balances. Rather, I am simply suggesting you have the chance to provide some clarity regarding your expectations.

When it comes to financing, the evaluation report correctly acknowledges that funding our work is “not universally understood by the Parties.” However, the evaluation report goes on to add to this confusion by asserting that “the ISU is dependent on financial support from three sources.” This is incorrect. The ISU receives no funding from the monies provided by States Parties to cover the costs of Meetings of the States Parties or Review Conferences.

The ISU receives support from two sources – one direct and one indirect. The direct source is through voluntary contributions provided by States Parties. In the greater scheme of things, the amount of money we are talking about is small and the costs could easily be shared by a relatively small number of States Parties, although it is always healthy if the burden is shared by many and if the ISU is not overly dependent on one or some States Parties. The overall budget of the ISU amounts to less than .2% of annual mine action funding and, to put matters into perspective, our current funding gap for 2010 amounts to the value of one-week’s-worth of CCW meetings. The amount of money we’re talking about is so small that clearly this amounts to a matter of political will.

And so as regards this source of funding, the Task Force has some important questions to ask:

- Why have some of the States Parties with the greatest means contributed nothing or very little to the operations of the ISU?
- Why do States that are parties to this instrument as well as others seemingly have a blockage when it comes to supporting this Convention’s operations but have no issue in unquestioningly covering the costs of the operations of other instruments?
- If the political will does exist, then is it the funding model in question that is the blockage?

Other questions we could ask are as follows: Is there something about this Convention that does not see it placed on the same plane of seriousness as other Conventions, or, does this Convention not lead to as much measureable, meaningful difference in the lives of individuals and the socio-economic development of its parties as is the case with other instruments? But then the answers to these questions are obvious. And because they are obvious, again, clearly it points to how your work is cut out for you in addressing the commitment that you made in 2001, and reaffirmed in the Cartagena Action Plan, to fund the operations of the ISU.

The other source of funding is indirect in that it takes the form of support provided by the GICHD on the basis of funding provided generously by Switzerland. Technically, however, there is no guarantee that this support level will be sustained. Certainly, and to his credit, the GICHD Director is unequivocal in his assurances that the ISU will receive a constant level of support. Equally, though, the GICHD Director in 2011 will have to contend with a significant drop in core funding to the GICHD that is being provided by Switzerland.

Given the significance of Swiss support, via the GICHD, in backstopping the ISU's operations, perhaps there can be greater formal assurance provided by Switzerland that existing levels of support will be maintained for the foreseeable future. Also with respect to this contribution, there perhaps could be greater transparency and attention given to the most efficient possible use of it. The GICHD Director has estimated a financial value that could be attributed to the support provided. Perhaps these funds could be provided directly to the ISU for (a) entering into an agreement with the Director of the GICHD regarding the internal purchase of services and (b) reallocating for higher priority purposes or for purchasing them through other means.

Let me conclude by expressing my thanks for your efforts in carrying out this important task of evaluating the ISU this year. During this process, I have been heartened by your expressions of appreciation for my efforts and those of my staff.

We in turn never forget how lucky we are to be able to serve you. We are inspired each year in working with each new set of Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs and each new Presidency and are motivated by the energy, enthusiasm and new ideas that emerge from you each year: This work never gets old and there has not been single day going back to 14 January 2002 when I have been bored.

We are greatly privileged to be able to support the representatives of 156 States do their jobs as they relate to the implementation of this Convention, both here in Geneva and within national contexts. Our great hope is that you will seize the opportunity to act in such a way that implementation support remains strong and relevant for the post-Cartegena world and beyond.

Thank you.