



25 February 2011

To: The Permanent Missions to the United Nations 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

Re: **New funding models for the Implementation Support Unit – Invitation to the first meeting of the Open Ended Working Group**

Excellencies, dear friends,

You will recall that the 29 November – 3 December 2010 Tenth Meeting of the States Parties (10MSP) endorsed the final report of the ISU Task Force, agreeing inter alia to task me “to establish an open-ended working group to examine new models for financing the ISU and present recommendations and draft decisions on the most feasible comprehensive financing model for adoption by the 11MSP, so it may be effective from the financial year 2012.” In this regard, it is my pleasure to invite you to the following:

First Meeting of the Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) on ISU Funding Models
Tuesday 8 March, 15:00
World Meteorological Organization Building (7bis, avenue de la Paix), Salle C1

The matter of a sustained and predictable funding model for the ISU is of paramount importance to the smooth operation of the Convention and to supporting us, the States Parties, in meeting our goals. Thus, in order to have an inclusive, transparent and result-oriented consultation process, all States Parties are invited to participate and contribute to the proceedings of the OEWG. I have also asked the Director of the ISU to take part, both to assist me and to serve as a resource in terms of informing us of the ISU’s historic financial situation and of the challenges in meeting the expectations of the State Parties in the context of the existing funding model.

The starting point for the efforts of the OEWG will be the Final Report to the Task Force on the Evaluation of the ISU, presented by the independent consultant on 1 September 2010, and, the Final Report and Recommendations of the ISU Task Force, presented at the 10MSP by the President of the Second Review Conference. I would encourage OEWG participants to review these documents, which can be found on the Convention’s website.

All members of the OEWG are invited to actively participate to the discussions and consultations. With your support, my aim is to explore in depth the five options for the financing model of the ISU

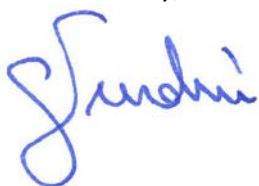
President of the Tenth Meeting of the States Parties
c/o AP Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit

mentioned in the Final Report to the Task Force, possible variations of these, as well as the degree of support each of them may have. I hope that by the time of the meetings of the Standing Committees in June we would have been able to identify the basis for drafting a proposal for the most feasible and comprehensive financing model, to be presented to the States Parties at the 11MSP.

Finally, please allow me to repeat that, while this year we will explore options for future financing of the ISU, our responsibility in 2011 remains to provide voluntary contributions for the ISU's operations. As this is a responsibility of all 156 States Parties, my hope in 2011 is that there will be widespread response to the funding appeal I made in January.

I wish to thank you for your ongoing commitment to strengthen our ISU and I look forward to seeing you on 8 March.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gazmend Turdiu', with a stylized, cursive script.

Gazmend Turdiu
President-Designate of the Tenth Meeting of the States Parties