

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR COST-SAVINGS THROUGH COOPERATION BETWEEN ISUs**

### **SUBMITTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SIXTEENTH MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES**

The 2015 Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties (14MSP) requested that the President of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction “conduct informal administrative consultations with the Presidents of other relevant instruments and with the Heads of other relevant ISU’s”. The President was further requested to “report on opportunities for cost-savings through cooperation as soon as practical but not later than at the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties.”

Since the 14MSP, in addition to this task being mandated to the Anti-Personnel Mines Ban Convention President, the President of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) was mandated to “explore and develop possible synergies between the Cluster Munitions Convention ISU and other Implementation Support Units, in particular that of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, with a view to enhancing efficiency and further reducing costs.”

Over the course of this year the President has held informal consultations with the President of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) and with the President of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW).

The obligations encompassed in the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the CCM and Protocol V of the CCW share various thematic overlaps. Matters such as survey, clearance, cooperation and assistance, mine risk education, national legislation, reporting and victim assistance are key components of these instruments and essential for their implementation by pertinent States Parties. Subsequently, the States Parties have developed implementation machineries to address these matters under the different Conventions, supported by the relevant Implementation Support Units (ISUs). These thematic overlaps open the door for cooperation between the ISUs which has the potential to ensure a more coherent implementation approach and ultimately to possible cooperation and cost savings.

As highlighted in the document presented under the CCM entitled “Elements for the Exploration and Development of Proposals for possible Synergies between the ISU CCM and other ISUs”, collaboration between the ISUs could take the form of informal information exchange and cooperation regarding outreach activities (seminars and workshops, training, capacity-building). This increased collaboration could facilitate the work of the States Parties and provide more coherence in the support to States Parties. This is of particular relevant for States that are party to multiple instruments.

Collaboration in the area of Victim Assistance is conceivable by the fact that the understandings and principles of victim assistance that has underpinned the work of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention have been embraced by the Cluster Munitions Convention and Protocol V of the CCW. The principle of non-discrimination embodied in the work of victim assistance and the understanding of the link between victim assistance, human rights and disability provides ample opportunity for and would benefits greatly from increased cooperation. Likewise, all instruments have action plans (Maputo Action Plan, Dubrovnik Action Plan and the Plan of Action on Victim Assistance) which are mutually supporting. Furthermore, as in other areas of the Conventions, reporting on Victim Assistance under the Conventions is similar and the Committee on Victim Assistance of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention has put forth guidance on victim assistance reporting to support relevant States Parties in gathering information for reporting under the different conventions including the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The benefit of joint outreach activities was evidenced by a land release workshop supported by the President of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the President of the Convention on Cluster Munition, with support of the ISUs and organised by the GICHD, held a day prior to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention's 8-9 June 2017 intersessional meetings in which both ISUs presented on the importance of International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), in particular IMAS 7.11, on the implementation of the clearance obligations under the Conventions. In addition to the efficient use of resources to address States Parties of the different Conventions, the opportunity was provided for mutually beneficial collaboration in the area of sponsorship.

A possible area of cooperation is that of ensuring a coherent meeting schedule which would benefit the Conventions and States Parties, including in the administration of sponsorship programmes. It is often the case that the same government agency is tasked with the implementation of obligations under the different Conventions. In this sense, holding relevant meetings back to back could ensure that there would be efficiency in sponsorship as well as in terms of time and money of those for whom multiple meetings are relevant.

However, it is also important to note that the Conventions are at different stage and limitations do exist. For example: a) each Convention has a different membership; b) the number of States Parties affected differs in quantity between Conventions with overlap in some cases c) the Conventions are at different stages of implementation and have established different mechanisms for addressing implementation matters; d) the Conventions have a different calendar of meetings which are in some cases tied to established processes (e.g. the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention has a series of established mechanisms that depend on current meeting calendar structure to function appropriately, such as the extension request process under Article 5).

In spite of these limitations, there is real scope for continued informal information exchange and cooperation regarding outreach activities where it proves beneficial to the relevant States Parties and to the effective implementation of the Convention. Furthermore, as the Conventions are at different stages of implementation, it could be beneficial to exchange ideas on topics and challenges which may have been addressed within the framework of other Conventions.