

**Activities, functioning and finances
of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit**

Interim Report

1 January 2023 – 1 October 2023

**Submitted by the
Director of the Implementation Support Unit**

Background:

1. At the 2001 Third Meeting of the States Parties (3MSP), 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 to support 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 Council of Foundation accepted this mandate on 28 September 2001.
2. At the 2010 Tenth Meeting of the States Parties, the States Parties endorsed the final report of the ISU Task Force and, in doing so, adopted the Directive from the States Parties to the ISU, ensuring that the ISU is directly responsible to the States Parties while it continues to be hosted by the GICHD. In taking these actions, the States Parties agreed that the ISU would "report in written form as well as orally on the activities, functioning and finances of the ISU to each Meeting of the States Parties or Review Conference, and to informal meetings under the Convention as appropriate." In addition, the States Parties agreed that "an audited Annual Financial Report (...) for the previous year and a preliminary Annual Financial Report for the present year shall be submitted by the ISU to the Coordinating Committee and subsequently to each Meeting of the States Parties or Review Conferences for approval."
3. At the 2015 Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties (14MSP), the States Parties adopted a Decision on strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU which, in part, established a financial security buffer and measures related to the management of expenditures related to core support of the ISU and of the financial security buffer. The Decision on strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU also established that early in each year a conference of States Parties shall be held to collect pledges and contributions in order to obtain an overview of funds that can be expected for the current year as well as for the foreseeable period.
4. At the 2019 Fourth Review Conference, the States Parties adopted the ISU Work Plan and Budget 2020-2024. In adopting the 2020-2024 Work Plan the States Parties modified the decision of the 14MSP. This modification included the merging of "enhanced support" with "core support" of the ISU to better support implementation and to ensure a more practical approach to implementation in line with the recommendation of the mid-term review of the work plan presented to the

Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties. Additionally, the Fourth Review Conference adopted the Oslo Action Plan (OAP) in which States Parties committed in Action 10 to “provide voluntary resources for the effective functioning of the ISU, making multi-year commitments where feasible, in accordance with the ISU’s 5-year work plan.”

5. The 2022 Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties (20MSP) adopted the ISU Work Plan and Budget for 2023, in line with the ISU Work Plan and Budget 2020-2024. To date (1 October 2023) contributions were received from the following 14 States Parties – **Australia, Belgium, Canada, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Peru, Slovenia, Spain, Thailand, the Netherlands and Türkiye**

Report:

Mandate #1: “Prepare, support and carry out follow-up activities from formal and informal meetings under the Convention including Meetings of the States Parties, Review Conferences, Amendment Conferences, intersessional meetings, Standing Committees, the Coordinating Committee and the Article 5 Extension Request Analysing Group¹”

Mandate #2: “Provide substantive and other support to the President, President-Designate, Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs in their work related to all such meetings”²

6. Over the course of 2023, the ISU supported the President of the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties, H.E. Thomas Göbel, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Germany to the Conference on Disarmament (“The President”) and the Convention’s thematic Committees in the implementation of their mandate, including through the following efforts:
7. Throughout the course of 2023, the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) supported the German presidency in coordinating and carrying out follow-up activities associated with seven (7) meetings of the Coordinating Committee. This also included substantial and administrative coordination support.
8. On 14 March 2023, the ISU supported the Committee on Victim Assistance, in hosting a full day retreat on victim assistance which brought together the Committees/Coordinators on Victim Assistance of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions. The retreat also included participation of Victim Assistance Coordinators of the different disarmament Conventions as well as those mandated to address matters concerning cooperation and assistance and representatives from the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, the Secretariat of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the International Committee of the Red Cross and Humanity and Inclusion. The retreat formed part of the Committee’s ongoing effort to strengthen synergies and ensure the provision of coherent advice to States Parties in implementation of victim assistance. All parties welcomed the retreat as an important occasion to discuss concrete opportunities for collaboration in achieving our common objective.

¹ At the Third Review Conference, Standing Committees were replaced by four Committees and the mandate to analyse requests for extension under Article 5 was placed under the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. At the Third Review Conference, the structures of the Committees were altered and now include one Chair and three Committee Members.

² The Committee on Article 5 Implementation, Committee on Victim Assistance, Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance and the Committee Cooperative Compliance.

9. The ISU supported the President and the Committees in hosting their initial meetings to reflect on their mandate and discuss their work plans for the year. On 18 January 2023, the ISU supported the President and the Coordinating Committee in organising a full day retreat in Geneva to explore the challenges and opportunities in the implementation of the Convention in 2023. The ISU provided a briefing for Coordinating Committee members concerning the status of the Convention and key matters to consider in 2023 based on the priorities highlighted by the Committees at the 20MSP. Likewise, organisations including the ICBL and the ICRC were invited to offer presentations on different thematic areas of implementation. As a result, Committee members had a better understanding concerning the status and challenges in implementation of the Convention.
10. The ISU supported the Presidency in establishing and supporting the work of a Universalization Coordination Group (UCG). Following the establishment of the Universalization Coordination Group (UCG) at the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties, four meetings of the UCG were convened to exchange information on universalization efforts, coordinate joint demarches in targeted States not party and discuss universalization opportunities more broadly. The UCG has also discussed opportunities to strengthen universalization efforts in the lead up to the Fifth Review Conference to take place in December 2024. The ISU supported the UCG meetings, including by drafting and circulating final reports.
11. The ISU provided further support to the President in the implementation of his universalization mandate during the week of 2-6 October 2023, in the margins of the UN General Assembly First Committee in New York. The ISU supported the President during bilateral meetings held with Bahrain, Georgia, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Nepal, Singapore, and Tonga. The ISU also supported the President's effort to raise awareness of the objective of a *Mine Free Pacific* by the Fifth Review Conference.
12. In line with the decision taken during the initial Coordinating Committee meeting, the ISU scheduled bilateral meetings for representatives of the Coordinating Committee. During the month of March and April the Coordinating Committee held bilateral meetings with 16 States Parties including Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mauritania, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Türkiye and Zimbabwe. The Coordinating Committee once again expressed the importance of these bilateral meetings and the value of the Committees carrying them out jointly in order to gain a comprehensive understanding of the situation faced by mine-affected States Parties and encourage the inclusion of comprehensive information in their Article 7 reports.
13. On 24 March 2023, the ISU provided support to the President in executing his mandate concerning efforts to mobilize sufficient resources for the ISU including by providing the President with advice in planning and hosting the *Eighth Annual Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention*. The Conference was chaired by the President. A keynote address was delivered via video by H.E. Katja Keul Minister of State at the German Federal Foreign Office. Other high-level delegates included the State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, H.E. Takei Shunsuke, and Senior Minister and First Vice President of the Cambodian Mine Action & Victim Assistance Authority H.E. Ly Thuch. The ISU also provided support on a number of follow-up actions, including communicating with States Parties concerning their pledges and ensuring that the

interventions made by States during the Pledging Conference were uploaded to the Convention's website: <https://www.apminebanconvention.org/en/pledging-conferences/8pc/>

14. The Pledging Conference continued to be viewed as an important event to ensure the flowing of sufficient voluntary contributions to support the implementation of the ISU's annual work plan and beyond. During the 2023 Pledging Conference, the following States Parties pledged support to the ISU: Algeria, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Finland, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, and Türkiye.
15. On 9 March 2023, the ISU supported the Committees and a representative of the Committee's gender focal points in hosting an online workshop on "*Article 7 Transparency Reports and the Oslo Action Plan*". All mine-affected States Parties were invited to participate with the objective of, amongst other, encouraging submission of Article 7 reports by the 30 April deadline, raising awareness on gaps in reporting and sharing available tools to support States Parties. The workshop also provided an opportunity for States Parties to pose questions, share challenges faced in reporting and raise any other matter concerning reporting. The workshop further provided the opportunity for the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance to launch the online reporting tool that was developed for voluntary use of States Parties. The workshop was held in Arabic, English, French and Spanish.
16. On 23 May 2023, the ISU supported the President and the Committees in distributing a communication reminding States Parties of their upcoming reporting deadline and providing additional guidance from the Committees on the information to be submitted in their Article 7 reports in line with the indicators of the OAP.
17. On 11 April 2023, the ISU supported the Committee on Cooperative Compliance in developing and distributing a communication to States Parties with outstanding obligations relating to national legislation under Article 9 of the Convention. The ISU also liaised with the ICRC and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) to determine how to stimulate increased action on the implementation of Article 9. The ISU further supported the Committee on its interaction with civil society organisations and particularly with Human Rights Watch concerning allegations of use of anti-personnel mines by the armed forces of Ukraine and supported the Committee in their continued interaction with Sudan and Yemen.
18. The ISU supported the Committee on Article 5 Implementation as well as the President in their interaction with Eritrea to support an agreeable settlement to the current situation of non-compliance. The ISU further supported the President in implementing the decision of the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties which requested the 21MSP President to submit a Request for Clarification to Eritrea through the office of the United Nations Secretary General, should a cooperative dialogue not materialize. The Request for Clarification as submitted by the President on 24 May 2023. The ISU continues providing support to the President in this regard.
19. Due to ongoing challenges concerning assessed contributions for UN support to Meetings of the States Parties and Review Conferences, the ISU has increasingly dedicated resources to addressing this matter, including by circulating letters (as agreed by the Fourth Review Conference) to States Parties, and supporting the President's efforts in ensuring that States in arrears are notified and encouraged to pay their assessed contribution well before the three month deadline ahead of a

Meeting of States Parties / Review Conference imposed by the UN. The ISU is also increasingly addressing inquiries from States Parties on information concerning their assessed contributions.

20. The ISU also supported the President in matters concerning stockpile destruction having organised bilateral meetings with Greece and Ukraine concerning their outstanding stockpile destruction commitments under Article 4 of the Convention.

21. The ISU supported the Committee on Victim Assistance in implementing its mandate of addressing other fora on matters concerning victim assistance, including the following, amongst other:

- a. On 7 March 2023, the ISU supported a meeting between the Committee and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD Committee)
- b. On 13 March 2023, the ISU supported the Committee in delivering a statement during the annual debate on the rights of persons with disabilities at the 52nd Session of the Human Rights Council (HRC).
- c. On 29 May 2023, the ISU supported the Committee in delivering a statement at the World Health Assembly under the agenda item concerning “the highest attainable standard of health for persons with disabilities”.

22. The ISU provided advice and support to the President and the Committees in developing plans for the 19-21 June 2023 Intersessional Meetings. The ISU also supported the efforts of the President and the Committees in developing their preliminary observations and other documents for the Intersessional Meetings, drafting and distributing the invitation and programme for the Intersessional Meetings, contracting of interpreters for the meeting and supporting the efforts of the President and Committees during the Intersessional Meetings. The ISU further supported the President and Committees in contacting experts and in arranging relevant panel discussions. The Intersessional Meetings were held back-to-back with the UNMAS national directors meeting which required additional coordination.

23. The ISU supported the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance and Senegal in preparations for the Individualised Approach (IA) meeting which was held on the margins of the 19-21 June 2023 Intersessional Meetings. The ISU’s support included working with the Committee and Senegal to finalize and distribute the invitation, agenda, presentation, and other material and preparing the platform and translation for the event. The IA continues to be viewed as an important platform to learn more of the challenges faced by mine affected States and foster partnerships for overcoming these challenges.

24. Over the period of 31 March 2023 – 1 October 2023, the ISU supported to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation in executing its mandate to prepare and submit to the States Parties an analysis of the request submitted by Ukraine including by supporting the Committee in its communication with Ukraine to request additional information as well as with expert organisations to receive their expert input following the submission of the request. At the time of writing, the collaboration between the Committee and Ukraine continues in this regard.

25. The Committee further supported the Committee on Article 5 in implementing the decision of the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties which invited the Committee “to assess the Article 5

extension request process and challenges, based on the previously adopted decisions by States Parties and, taking into consideration other relevant documents on this matter, determine whether there would be a common ground for strengthening the process, including the considerations of all relevant stakeholders in an open, inclusive, and transparent manner, in particular mine affected States, and to report its conclusions and recommendations at the Twenty-first Meeting of States Parties.” This included supporting the Committee in calling for consultations on the margins of the 19-21 June 2023 Intersessional Meetings as well as convening a consultation on 19 September 2023 at the United Nations in Geneva.

26. The ISU supported the President in preparations for the 20-24 November 2023 21MSP including by supporting the President in the drafting of an agenda and programme, ensuring the creation of a 21MSP page on the Convention’s website, uploading of conference documents, preparations for the hosting of side events, amongst other. On 18 September 2023, the ISU supported the President in chairing an informal meeting concerning preparations for the 21MSP. Furthermore, The ISU supported the President and the Committees in the drafting of the *Progress Report 2022-2023 on Achieving the aims of the Oslo Action Plan* as well on the documentation concerning the President and Committee’s activities and priorities in implementation.

27. The ISU began supporting the incoming President of the Fifth Review Conference in his preparations to assume the Presidency of the Convention.

Mandate #3: “Provide advice and technical support to States Parties on the implementation and universalization, including on the Sponsorship Programme, of the Convention”

28. On 13-17 February 2023, the ISU carried out a mission to Nigeria to support Nigeria in its efforts to develop and submit an updated work plan for implementation of its Article 5 mine clearance obligations. During the visit, the Committee on Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention of Nigeria held a stakeholder dialogue during which the ISU offered a presentation on the status of implementation of the Convention by Nigeria and suggestions going forward in terms of development of its updated work plan.

29. On 26 February – 4 March 2023, the ISU carried out a mission to Somalia to support the Somalia National Mine Action Centre in hosting a stakeholder dialogue in support of the drafting of Somalia’s updated Article 5 work plan in accordance with the decision on their request for extension.

30. On 27 February – 3 March 2023, the ISU carried out a mission to Angola to support Angola in the implementation of its victim assistance commitments under the Convention. During the mission, the ISU had the opportunity to meet with key victim assistance stakeholders in Angola and provide support and advice to the victim assistance focal point to progress in implementation of Angola’s victim assistance commitments under the Oslo Action Plan.

31. On 6-12 August 2023, the ISU carried out a mission to Tajikistan to support the Tajikistan National Mine Action Centre in the drafting of their updated Article 5 implementation plan in accordance with the decision on their request for extension.

32. On 22-25 August 2023, the ISU carried out a mission to Tajikistan in support of its victim assistance commitments under the Oslo Action Plan.

33. On 28 August 2023 – 1 September 2023, the ISU carried out a preparatory mission to Cambodia to discuss preparations for the Fifth Review Conference to take place on 2-6 December 2024. During the mission, a visit was undertaken to the possible venues for the Fifth Review Conference.
34. On 1 – 6 October 2023 the ISU carried out a mission to Iraq to support the Directorate for Mine Action of Iraq in the drafting of their updated Article 5 implementation plan in accordance with the decision on their request for extension.
35. The ISU provided advice to States Parties that indicated would submit requests for extended mine clearance deadlines in 2023 (Ukraine) and began doing so with respect to States Parties that had indicated would need to or may need to submit requests for consideration at the Fifth Review Conference (Afghanistan, Chad, Cyprus, Guinea-Bissau, Niger, Oman, Peru, Serbia).
36. The ISU also supported States Parties in their efforts to submit updated workplans in accordance with decision on their granted extension request (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Iraq, Niger, Nigeria, Mauritania, Senegal, Somalia, Tajikistan and Turkey).
37. Additionally, the ISU provided support to States Parties by addressing inquiries concerning their participation in the 24 March 2023 Eighth Annual Pledging Conference, the 19-21 June 2023 Intersessional Meetings, 20-24 November 2023 21MSP, and on matters related to UN assessed contributions for the 21MSP, amongst other Convention related matters.
38. The ISU provided support to Australia in its role as Sponsorship Programme Coordinator in raising awareness and distributing communications on the status of the Sponsorship Programme. The ISU supported Australia in developing a strategy for the Sponsorship Programme for the 19-21 June 2023 Intersessional Meetings as well as for the 20-24 November 2023 21MSP. The ISU also supported the Sponsorship Programme Coordinator in developing a strategy for the 2024 leading to the Fifth Review Conference. The ISU further supported liaising with sponsored delegates in collaboration with the conference team of the GICHD which administrates the Sponsorship Programme.

Mandate #4: “Facilitate communication among the States Parties, and promote communication and information regarding the Convention towards States not Party and the public”

39. The ISU responded to numerous inquiries from States Parties, States not party and organisations regarding participation in Convention activities as well as on the status of implementation of the Convention and the OAP and has continued to engage with a number of partners and organisations.
40. On 2-4 May 2023, the ISU participated in the 19th International Mine Action Symposium of Croatia which took place in Vodice, Croatia. Was the Symposium had a session focused on Victim Assistance, the ISU was invited to participate in a panel discussion concerning Victim Assistance implementation within the framework of the Convention.
41. On 9 May 2023, the ISU was invited to offer opening remarks (online) during a Mine Action Seminar in Bogota, Colombia, which celebrated the thirty-year anniversary of the Inter-American Defense Board’s support to humanitarian mine action and sought to share results and lesson learned.

42. On 24-26 May 2023, the ISU participated in a conference in Azerbaijan entitled “Mine action – the path to reaching sustainable development goals”. The ISU supported the participation of the President during the Conference and had the opportunity to meet with several partners in Azerbaijan including the UN Resident Coordinator.
43. On 30-31 May 2023, the ISU participated in the “African Regional Seminar on Mine Action: a safe and mine free Africa” organized and hosted by the Government of Algeria in Algiers. The ISU provided opening remarks during the Seminar and participated in a panel discussion on cooperation and assistance in the region.
44. On 25 August 2023, the ISU provided a presentation to 24 *UN Disarmament fellows* representing 24 different States on the Convention and on the work of the ISU during their stop to Geneva.
45. On 5 September 2023, the ISU welcomed a Japanese Parliamentary Delegation to brief them on the work of the ISU and the status of the Convention and to answer some inquiries they had concerning Japan’s role in the Convention’s implementation.
46. On 5 September 2023, the ISU provided a briefing to new representatives of the Permanent Missions in Geneva concerning the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. With the departure and arrival of new representatives to Geneva, the ISU provided an introduction to the work of the ISU and the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. The opportunity was given to new delegates to ask any questions concerning the Convention and the ISU’s work.
47. On 5 September 2023, the ISU provided a briefing on a group of parliamentarians from Japan concerning the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. The ISU provided an introduction to the Convention and the work of the ISU. The ISU also highlighted areas for collaboration with parliamentarians in particular related to universalization efforts and the implementation of Article 9.
48. The ISU continued to update and enhance the Convention’s website and put considerable effort into revising content on the Convention’s website (www.apminebanconvention.org). Efforts also continue to redesign the website and provide stakeholders with a more user-friendly website.
49. The ISU continued distributing news on the implementation of the Convention on the Convention’s social media channels and through the distributions of a periodic newsletter.

Mandate #5: “Keep records of formal and informal meetings under the Convention, and communicate, as appropriate, the decisions and priorities resulting from such meetings to States Parties and other stakeholders”

50. The ISU created a page on the Convention’s website for the 14 March 2023 Eighth International Pledging Conference, the 19-21 June 2023 Intersessional Meetings and the 20-24 November 2023 21MSP. The ISU also ensured that the volume of documents and statements generated at the Intersessional Meetings and the 21MSP were/are made available on the Convention’s website, including recordings of the panel discussions during the Intersessional Meetings.
51. The ISU also continued its efforts to ensure an active presence of the Convention on social media and news outlets including Flickr, Instagram, and Twitter.

Mandate #6: “Liaise, and coordinate as appropriate, with relevant international organisations that participate in the work of the Convention, including the ICBL, the ICRC, the UN and the GICHD”

52. The ISU continued its collaboration with mine action stakeholders including non-governmental organisations including GICHD, HALO Trust, International Campaign to Ban Landmines, ICRC, Mines Advisory Group and Norwegian People’s Aid, and United Nations agencies, including UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNMAS and WHO, amongst others. The ISU continued its participation in different working groups and bodies including the Victim Assistance Technical Working Group IMAS Review Board, Mine Action Area of Responsibility (AOR) and the Mine Action Support Group.

53. The ISU continued to liaise with the different disarmament Convention Secretariats as well as academic institutions.

54. The ISU also carried out efforts to strengthen its working relationship with other international partners such as the African Union, the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre, the Organization of American States and the International Parliamentary Union.

Extra budgetary activities

55. Since 2021, the ISU has been implementing an EU Council Decision 2021/257 in support of the Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the OAP. Staff costs for implementation of the project are covered by the EU Council Decision. This Decision builds on the past Decision (2017/1428), which the ISU, as the Decision’s technical implementer, carried out from October 2017 to February 2021. Staff costs for implementation of the project are covered by the EU Council Decision. The project totals EUR 2,658,139 to be carried out over a period of four years from 2021 –2025.

56. On 24-26 January 2023, the ISU supported Zimbabwe in hosting a National Stakeholder Dialogue to discuss progress made, the remaining challenge and the support required by Zimbabwe to meet its 2025 mine clearance deadline under Article 5. The National Stakeholder Dialogue including government representatives, representatives from national and international organizations and donors, amongst others. The Dialogue was hosted by the Zimbabwe Mine Action Center (ZMAC) with the financial support of the European Union and with technical assistance of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the Convention.

57. On 15-16 March 2023, support was provided to Sudan in hosting a National Stakeholder Dialogue: “*A Strategic Approach to Respond to the Needs of Mine Survivors and Other Persons with Disabilities in Sudan*”. The Dialogue was hosted by the National Mine Action Centre (NMAC) in collaboration with the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) and national ministries and other stakeholders in Khartoum. The Dialogue was held with the financial support of the European Union and with technical assistance of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the Convention, in collaboration with the Committee.

58. The ISU continued with its efforts to support States in the implementation of their Convention commitments through including preparations for the hosting of the Global Conference on Victim Assistance to be held on 17-19 October 2023 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and a regional event with

ECOWAS on anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature to take place in February 2024 in Accra, Ghana. Detailed activities and expenditures related to the EU Council Decision are reported separately to the EU.

Gender and diversity:

59. In 2023, the ISU continued to implement its gender and diversity action plan, which aims to ensure consistent gender and diversity mainstreaming in all ISU activities. Examples of how the ISU seeks to achieve this goal include:

- a. advising those being supported by the ISU in convening meetings, workshops, and conferences on the importance of ensuring, to the extent possible, that both men and women of different ages and backgrounds, including women and men with disabilities, are able to participate;
- b. ensuring that there is gender and regional balance in terms of panellists;
- c. conducting accessibility audits prior to engaging in the use of any meeting facility;
- d. proposing that invitation letters to meetings, workshops and conferences encourage diverse participation, including representatives of mine affected communities;
- e. ensuring that the principal tools used by the ISU in supporting States Parties continue to take into account age and gender;
- f. advising States Parties in preparing Article 5 extension requests on the collection and analysis of sex and age disaggregated data and information; and
- g. continuing to place an increasing emphasis on ISU staff using gender and age sensitive language that promotes a positive and inclusive image of women, girls, boys, and men with disabilities.

60. The ISU recognises the importance and is committed to ensuring that gender and diversity issues are considered in every aspect of our work.

61. In 2023, in cooperation with the Sponsorship Programme Coordinator, Australia, the ISU continued its efforts to strengthen the language concerning substantial participation during the Convention's informal and formal meetings in sponsorship letters to encourage delegations to consider an appropriate gender balance and role in their delegations. The Sponsorship Programme for the 19-21 June 2023 meetings supported the participation of a total of delegates from 22 States Parties, including 23 mine clearance experts and 5 victim assistance experts were sponsored. Of the 28 delegates, 17% were women.

Staffing:

62. As of 31 December 2021, the staffing of the ISU consists of 3.6 full time equivalent staff positions including a Director (100%), Implementation Support Specialist (60%), and 2 Implementation Support Officers (100%). The ISU also includes 1 full time EU Council Decision Project and Communications Manager as well as two long term and temporary support positions. These positions are fully funded by the EU Project (2021-2025).

Finances:

Implementation Support Unit Work Plan and Budget 2023

63. The ISU's 2023 work plan projected expenditures for core support in 2023 totalling **CHF 713'568**. In 2023 the ISU has received contributions to its 2023 work plan totalling CHF **500'618** from the following 14 States Parties – **Australia, Belgium, Canada, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Peru, Slovenia, Spain, Thailand, the Netherlands, and Türkiye** (See Table 1). Furthermore an additional CHF **325'237**³ was carried over from 2022. As of 1 October 2023 expenses of the ISU total CHF **544'865** (See Table 2).

64. In accordance with the "Decision on strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU", over the course of 2023, the ISU presented quarterly reports to the Coordinating Committee on finances and activities related to the implementation of the ISU's 2023 work plan.

Financial Security Buffer

65. Concerning the establishment of a Financial Security Buffer, the "Decision on strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU" indicates that the budgetary estimates of the first four-year work plan and the yearly budget shall provide for the gradual build-up of a financial security buffer of an amount equivalent to one year of ISU expenditures related to core support. This aim has been achieved.

66. Additionally, the "Decision on strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU" indicates that shortly after the closure of the accounts of a given year, the ISU shall provide the Coordination Committee with the financial situation resulting from the implementation of the yearly budget of the preceding year. When contributions have covered the expenditures related to core support provided for in that budget and leave a surplus, that surplus shall be provisionally placed in the financial security buffer. In 2022 no surplus was provisionally placed in the financial security buffer at the end of 2022 totalled **CHF 758'666**. (See Table 4).

Administrative support provided by the GICHD to the ISU in accordance with the agreement with the States Parties in 2023

67. In accordance with the agreement on implementation support, which was signed by the 10MSP President and the GICHD Director on 6 September 2011, the GICHD continued in 2023 to provide infrastructure and administrative support for the operations of the ISU.

68. The GICHD continued to support the organisation of the Intersessional Meetings. The GICHD further supported the ISU in human resources management, financial management, monitoring and controlling (including for the European Council Decision in support to the implementation of the Maputo Action Plan), office space and general logistics, travel services, and the fees relating to the hosting of the website. These support services are funded from **Switzerland's core contribution** to the GICHD to cover the cost of the ISU.

69. In addition, the GICHD continued to support the organisation of the Intersessional Meetings by covering the cost of interpretation and providing support staff.

³ Includes CHF 131'811 of Belgium's CHF 310'403 contribution to the ISU allotted to 2023. For agreement covering more than the calendar year, contributions received are adjusted at the end of the year.

Table 1: Financing of the ISU's 2023 work plan (as of 11 October 2023)

Contributions Received		CHF
1	Australia	84'448
2	Belgium	131'811
3	Canada	75'480
4	Estonia	4'864
5	Finland	9'669
6	Germany	49'028
7	Ireland	18'929
8	Japan	19'135
9	Peru	4'605
10	Slovenia	4'864
11	Spain	47'489
13	Thailand	10'000
14	The Netherlands	37'645
15	Türkiye	2'651
	Total contributions 2023	500'618
	Other revenue	958
	Contributions deferred to 2023	325'237
	Total	826'813

Table 2: ISU 2023 work plan expenses (as of 1 October 2023)

2023 Expenses	CHF
Salaries	403'691
Social Costs	80'424
Staff Travel	25'274
Communication, public relations, and other support costs	35'476
Total	544'865

Table 3: Financial Security Buffer

Allocation to the Financial Security Buffer 2015-2018	
Belgium	CHF 359'832
Estonia	CHF 2,624

Netherlands	CHF 12'065
Switzerland	CHF 10'000
Total contributions to financial Security Buffer	CHF384'521
Surplus 2016	CHF 225'440
Total of the Security Buffer 31.12.2016	CHF 609'961
Surplus 2017	CHF 202'471
Total of the Security Buffer 31.12.2017	CHF 812'432
Expenditures Enhanced Support 2018	-CHF 74'029
Surplus 2018	CHF 248'110 ⁴
Total of the Security Buffer 31.12.2018	CHF 986'513
Expenditures Enhanced Support 2019	-CHF 106'933
Allotment to the ISU Work Plan 2019	- CHF 95'538
Surplus 2019	CHF 222'734
Total of the Security Buffer 31.12.2019	CHF 1'006'776
Allotment to the ISU Work Plan 2020	-CHF 248'110
Total of the Security Buffer 31.12.2021	CHF 758'666
Allotment to the ISU Work Plan 2021	CHF 0
Total of the Security Buffer 31.12.2022	CHF 758'666

⁴ At the 18MSP, the Conference approved the apportion of the 2019 ISU Trust Fund surplus in a manner that ensures that (a) the financial security buffer contains an amount equivalent to one year of expenditures related to core support as provided for in the ISU yearly budget and that (b) any additional surplus be allocated to implement the ISU Work Plan.