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**Fifth Review Conference 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**

12 November 2024

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**Siem Reap, 25-29 November 2024**

Item 10 of the provisional agenda

**Consideration of the 2025-2029 five-year work plan and budget and of the 2025 work plan and budget of the Implementation Support Unit****Activities, functioning, and finances of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit. Interim Report (1<sup>st</sup> January 2024- 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024)****Submitted by the Director of the Implementation Support Unit<sup>\*,\*\*</sup>****I. 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 each year, a conference of States Parties shall be held to collect pledges and contributions to obtain an overview of funds expected for the current year and the foreseeable period.

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\* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

\*\* The present report was submitted to the conference services for processing after the deadline so as to include the most recent information.

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 14MSP decision. This modification included merging “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 Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties (21MSP), 20-24 November 2023, adopted the ISU Work Plan and Budget for 2024, in line with the ISU Work Plan and Budget 2020-2024. Over the course of 2024, contributions were received from the following 19 States Parties – Algeria, Australia, Austria, Cambodia, Canada, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Slovenia, Switzerland, Thailand, Türkiye, and the **United Kingdom**.

## II. 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 Group<sup>1</sup>”**

**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”<sup>2</sup>**

6. Over the course of 2024, the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) supported the President of the Fifth Review Conference, H.E. Dr. Ly Thuch, Senior Minister of the Government of Cambodia and First Vice President of the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (“The President”) and the Convention’s thematic Committees in the implementation of their mandate, including through the following efforts.

7. Throughout 2024, the ISU supported the President in coordinating and carrying out follow-up activities associated with eight (8) meetings of the Coordinating Committee. This also included substantial administrative and logistical support. These meetings took place both in person and virtually.

8. During January 2024, the ISU supported the President and Committees in holding their initial discussions concerning their 2025 work plans, in line with the priorities for implementation identified by the Committees in 2023. On 26 January 2024, the ISU supported the President, the members, and observers of the Coordinating Committee in holding their first meeting of the Coordinating Committee. This was the first opportunity for the President and Committees to share their work plans for the year and hold a comprehensive discussion on the Convention’s implementation.

9. Since January 2024, the ISU has supported the President in chairing the informal Universalization Coordination Group (UCG) established by the President of the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties. Over the course of 2024, the UCG has convened on five separate occasions to exchange information on universalization efforts, coordinate joint démarches in targeted States not party and discuss how these efforts could be intensified, in particular in the Pacific region, in the lead-up to the Fifth Review Conference.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

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

10. The ISU supported the President in holding bilateral meetings with the following States not party: Azerbaijan, Bahrain, China, Georgia, the Lao PDR, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States), Mongolia, Morocco, Singapore, Tonga, the United States, and Viet Nam. These bilateral meetings took place in Geneva, New York, Cambodia and in States not party's capitals. The ISU coordinated the bilateral meetings, provided background information on the relevant States not party and supported the President in following up on these meetings.

11. Throughout the course of 2024, the ISU supported the President's preparations for the Fifth Review Conference, which included a wealth of consultation with States and organizations, including the following:

(a) On 26 January 2024, the ISU supported the President in holding an all-day retreat with the Coordinating Committee and "Friends of the President", including 24 States and 11 organizations. The retreat provided an inclusive opportunity for States and organizations to consider matters related to the Fifth Review Conference, including initial feedback in the development of the Siem Reap – Angkor Action Plan 2025-2029 and the Siem Reap Angkor Political Declarations to be adopted at the Fifth Review Conference in November 2024;

(b) On 1 March 2024, the ISU supported the President in hosting a first informal meeting for the Fifth Review Conference. The meeting provided States Parties and organizations practical and substantive information about the Fifth Review Conference, shared information about the development process of the three substantive documents and highlighted how States Parties and organizations can participate in the process;

(c) On 27 May 2024, the ISU supported the President in hosting a second informal meeting for the Fifth Review Conference with the "Friends of the President". The meeting sought additional input into the development of the Siem Reap—Angkor Action Plan 2025-2029 and the political declaration;

(d) On 20 June 2024, the ISU supported the President in hosting the First Preparatory Meeting for the Fifth Review Conference. The ISU supported the President in drafting documents for the meeting, as well as the agenda for the meeting. The First Preparatory Meeting was held on the final day of the Intersessional Meetings to ensure wide participation from the mine action community. The ISU also collected all statements from delegations and established a page on the Conventions website for the First Preparatory meeting on which all documents and statements were made available: <https://www.apminebanconvention.org/en/review-conferences/5revcon/first-preparatory-meeting/>;

(e) On 18 September 2024, the ISU supported the President in hosting the Second Preparatory Meeting for the Fifth Review Conference. The ISU supported the President in drafting documents for the meeting, as well as the agenda for the meeting. In addition, the ISU supported the President in compiling input provided by delegations for the draft Siem Reap – Angkor Action Plan and Siem Reap Political Declaration. The ISU collected all statements from delegations and established a page on the Convention's website for the Second Preparatory Meeting on which all documents and statements were made available: <https://www.apminebanconvention.org/en/review-conferences/5revcon/second-preparatory-meeting/>;

(f) The ISU supported the President in preparing for the Fifth Review Conference including by drafting an agenda and programme of work for the conference, creating a Fifth Review Conference page on the Convention's website, uploading conference documents, coordinating the hosting of side events, amongst other;

(g) During the course of 2024 the ISU also carried out two planning missions to Cambodia to support preparations for the Fifth Review Conference.

12. On 8 March 2024, 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, the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the victim assistance Coordinator of Protocol V of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. The retreat also convened the different coordinators for Cooperation

and Assistance of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and Convention on Cluster Munitions, the Secretariat of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disability/the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), Humanity & Inclusion and a representative of the Gender and Diversity Working Group. Recognizing the significance of collaboration, the Committee on Victim Assistance encouraged a cohesive approach in efforts to support affected States in fulfilling their victim assistance commitments and stressed the need to exchange information among victim assistance coordinators of “sister Conventions” to ensure advice, tools, and support are provided to affected States in a coherent manner. Participants exchanged and shared planned and possible joint activities, including joint statements.

13. In line with the decision taken by the President and the Committees during their 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 13 States Parties – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Croatia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Mauritania, Mozambique, Peru, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Thailand, and Zimbabwe. The Coordinating Committee once again expressed the importance of these bilateral meetings and the value of the Committees carrying them out jointly to understand the situation faced by mine-affected States Parties and encourage comprehensive information sharing in their annual Article 7 transparency reports. These bilateral meetings further provided an opportunity for the gender focal points of the Committee to encourage States Parties to include information in their reports on matters related to considerations for gender and the diverse needs of people in mine-affected communities.

14. On 1 March 2024, the ISU provided support to the President in executing his mandate concerning efforts to mobilize sufficient resources for the ISU, including by providing him with advice in planning and hosting the *Ninth Annual Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention*. In total, 43 delegations participated, including 33 States Parties, 1 State not party, 3 international organisations, and 6 non-governmental organisations. The conference enabled participants to renew and strengthen commitments to the implementation of the Convention through pledges of financial support to mine action, as well as pledges for the ISU’s work plan, Sponsorship Programme, and Cooperation and Assistance Fund. The ISU supported the President in chairing the conference and provided support on several follow-up actions, including communicating with States Parties on their pledges and ensuring that the interventions made by States during the Pledging Conference were uploaded to the Convention’s website: [Ninth Pledging Conference | Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention \(apminebanconvention.org\)](https://www.apminebanconvention.org/)

15. Over the course of the first half of 2024, the ISU supported the President in implementing his mandate to propose a set of new officeholders for agreement by the forthcoming Fifth Review Conference. In accordance with the President’s mandate, the proposed set of officeholders shall be balanced regionally as well as between States Parties in the process of implementing key obligations of the Convention, those in a position to provide financial or other assistance, and other States Parties. The ISU supported the President in drafting and distributing a communication on 1 April 2024 requesting expressions of interest and compiling expressions of interest received. As a result of this process, the President was able to propose a set of new office holders to States Parties at the Second Preparatory Meeting for the Fifth Review Conference on 18 September 2024.

16. On 12 March 2024, the ISU supported the President and the Committees in distributing a communication reminding States Parties of their upcoming 30 April 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 28 March 2024, the ISU supported the Committees and a representative of the Committees’ gender focal points in hosting an online workshop on “*Article 7 Transparency Reports and the Oslo Action Plan*” for all States Parties. The workshop encouraged submission of Article 7 reports by the 30 April 2024 deadline, raised awareness on gaps in reporting and shared available tools to support States Parties’ reporting. 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 was held in Arabic, English, French, and Spanish.

18. On 17 April 2024, 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 continued liaising with the ICRC and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) to determine how to stimulate increased action on implementing Article 9.

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 address this matter. On 29 July 2024, the ISU circulated a letter (as agreed by the Fourth Review Conference) to States Parties on behalf of the President to encourage States Parties 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 also supported the President's efforts in ensuring that States in arrears are notified. The ISU addressed an increasing number of 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 26 February 2024, the Committee delivered a statement at the 55<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council during its annual debate on the rights of persons with disability under the theme of "harnessing multilateral efforts to embed, amplify and realize the rights of persons with disability with a focus on full and effective participation and inclusion in society." The Committee called attention to strengthening synergies between human rights and humanitarian frameworks;

(b) On 11 March 2024, the ISU supported the Committee in delivering a statement during the annual debate on the rights of persons with disabilities at the 55<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council (HRC) during the session on "support systems enabling community inclusion of persons with disabilities." The Committee encouraged comprehensive social protection systems that are inclusive of the rights and needs of persons with disabilities, including mine survivors;

(c) On 12 March 2024, the ISU supported the Committee in meeting with the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, Heba Hagrass and in preparing background information for the Special Rapporteur on the work of the Convention in supporting the plight of landmine survivors and the linkages with the work of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD);

(d) On 18 April 2024, the ISU supported the Committee in delivering a joint statement with victim assistance coordinators of other conventions to the fourth meeting of the Standing Committee on Health Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response of the World Health Organization;

(e) On 11 June 2024, the ISU supported the Committee in delivering a statement at the seventeenth session of the Conference of States Parties of the CRPD in New York, highlighting the complementarities between the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the CRPD;

(f) At the time of writing the ISU was supporting the Committee with its engagement with the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly.

22. The ISU provided advice and support to the President and the Committees in developing plans for the 18-20 June 2024 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 in chairing their Committee discussions during the Intersessional Meetings. The ISU further supported the President and Committees in contacting experts and arranging relevant panel discussions.

23. The ISU supported the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance and Peru in preparations for the Individualised Approach (IA) meeting, which was held on 19 June 2024 on the margins of the Intersessional Meetings. The ISU's support included working with the Committee and Peru 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 about the challenges mine-affected States face and foster partnerships for overcoming these challenges. The final report of the Individualised Approach of Peru can be found on Peru's webpage on the Convention's website: <https://www.apminebanconvention.org/en/membership/peru/>

24. On 21 June 2024, the ISU, with financial support from the European Union, supported the President in hosting a one-day seminar on anti-personnel mines retained for permitted purposes under Article 3. The seminar aimed to explore efforts to implement Articles 16 and 17 of the Oslo Action Plan in which States Parties that retain mines for permitted purposes are encouraged to annually review the number of mines retained to ensure that they do not exceed the minimum number absolutely necessary for permitted purposes, and destroy all anti-personnel mines that exceed that number, and explore alternatives to using live anti-personnel mines. In total 64 delegates representing 33 States Parties – 29 of them with Article 3 obligations – as well as 10 international and non-governmental organizations participated. <https://www.apminebanconvention.org/en/resources/eu-project/art3-seminar>

25. Over the period of 31 March 2024 – 30 October 2024, the ISU supported the Committee on Article 5 Implementation in executing its mandate to prepare and submit to the States Parties an analysis of the request submitted/to be submitted by Afghanistan, Chad, Cyprus, Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau, Niger, Peru and Serbia including by supporting the Committee in its communication with these States to request additional information as well as with expert organisations to receive their expert input following the submission of the request.

26. During the week of 7-11 October 2024, the ISU, with support from the European Union, provided support to the President in the implementation of his universalization mandate during bilateral meetings with Georgia, Micronesia (Federated States of), 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 through a meeting with Pacific Island States held at the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations in New York. These meetings were supported by the European Union and the Troika of the Convention (Cambodia, Germany (21MSP President) and Japan (22MSP President)). During the same week, the ISU supported the Troika's work in holding an informal consultation on the First Committee Resolution on the Implementation of the Convention at the UN Headquarters in New York.

27. During the week of 14-16 October 2024, the ISU, with the support of the European Union, supported the President and the Convention's Special Envoy's participation in the 149<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly to raise awareness amongst parliamentarians of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. Activities included: the Special Envoy's address to the 149<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the IPU on the devastating impact of landmines, the successes and challenges of the Convention and the urgent need for universal accession to the Convention, the Special Envoy's participation in a high-level panel organized by the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law of the IPU to shed light on the Convention's role in supporting landmine victims, a meeting between the President and the Special Envoy and the President and Secretary General of the IPU about continued collaboration and the members of the Committee on Peace and International Security of the IPU to highlight the important contribution of the Convention to peace and International security, and meetings with the Ambassadors and/or parliamentarians from the Kingdom of Tonga, the Kingdom of Bahrain, and Nepal to promote the Convention.

28. The ISU provided support to the incoming President of the Twenty-Second Meeting of the States Parties, Japan, in her 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”**

29. From 29 January 2024 to 2 February 2024, the ISU carried out a mission to Croatia and Serbia to support these States Parties in developing their updated work plan and their request for an extension under Article 5, respectively.

30. On 13-15 February 2024, the Ghana National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons, with support provided by the ISU through a project sponsored by the European Union, hosted a Regional Conference on Addressing the Humanitarian Impact of Improvised Anti-Personnel Mines within the Framework of the Convention, which offered an opportunity for more than 40 countries and international and non-governmental organisations that participated to discuss the impact of this weapon on States Parties in the region and how to address this threat through the framework of the Convention.

31. On 10-13 March 2024, the ISU carried out a mission to Peru to support the Peruvian National Mine Action Centre (CONTRAMINAS) in the drafting of Peru’s request for an extension under Article 5 of the Convention to be submitted to the Fifth Review Conference for consideration. Peru submitted its request for extension to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation in a timely manner.

32. On 11-14 March, the ISU carried out a mission to Ethiopia to support its efforts in developing its outstanding updated work plan, as per the decision on its Article 5 extension request, and to provide information to Ethiopia on the implementation of its survey and clearance commitments under Article 5 of the Convention.

33. On 13-16 March 2024, the ISU carried out a mission to Ecuador to support the Ecuadorian National Mine Action Authority (CENDESMI) in the drafting of their updated work plan in accordance with the decision on Ecuador’s extension request. Ecuador submitted its updated work plan to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation on 18 June 2024.

34. On 16-19 March 2024, the ISU carried out a mission to Colombia to support their Mine Action Programme in initiating the work of developing its Article 5 request for extension for submission by 31 March 2025. Colombia has since begun engagement with stakeholders to draft the request for an extension.

35. On 24 March 2024, the ISU was invited to offer a briefing to States not party during the 148th Assembly of the IPU. Furthermore, on 26 March 2024, the ISU was invited to brief the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law of the IPU and to discuss how the Committee can further promote the goals of the Convention.

36. On 1-10 April 2024, the ISU carried out a mission to Cambodia and Thailand to support their effort in the development of their updated work plans, as per the decision of the States Parties on Cambodia and Thailand’s request for extension. Cambodia and Thailand submitted updated work plans to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, both on 30 April 2024.

37. On 16-18 April 2024, the ISU carried out a mission to Mauritania to support the national programme for humanitarian demining and development (PNDHD) with implementation of victim assistance commitments. The visit included meeting with the PNDHD staff, the Ministry of Health and national physical rehabilitation centre, and representatives of mine action organisations in Nouakchott.

38. From 28 to 30 May 2024, the ISU carried out a mission to Sri Lanka to assist the National Mine Action Centre with implementing and reporting victim assistance commitments. The visit included meetings and briefings with representatives of ministries of urban development and housing, health, social affairs, justice and foreign affairs, Humanity and Inclusion, and other national organisations active in victim assistance or mine action activities.

39. From 9-12 June 2024, the ISU carried out a mission to Ankara to support the Turkish Mine Action Centre’s efforts in drafting their Article 5 extension request to be submitted by 31 March 2024.

40. On 27-29 August 2024, the ISU supported Slovenia as Chair of the Committee on Victim Assistance through a project sponsored by the European Union in hosting the “European Regional Conference on Advancing Victim Assistance and Cooperation”. The Conference was held in Ljubljana and included participation of victim assistance experts from affected States Parties in the region, as well as from Tajikistan, Ukraine and Cambodia in his capacity as President of the Convention. The Conference provided an opportunity for participants to share their experiences and lessons learned under the Oslo Action Plan to feed into a new Plan – including enhancing cooperation for victim assistance and harmonizing efforts with those carried out to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and meet the Sustainable Development Goals.

41. The ISU provided advice to States Parties that indicated would submit requests for extended mine clearance deadlines in 2024 (Afghanistan, Chad, Cyprus, Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau, Niger, Oman, Peru, and Serbia) 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 Twenty-Second Meeting of the States Parties in 2025 (Angola, Argentina, Cambodia, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Senegal, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, and Zimbabwe).

42. The ISU also supported States Parties in their efforts to submit updated work plans in accordance with the decision of Meetings of the States Parties/Review Conferences on their extension requests (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Niger, South Sudan, Thailand, Ukraine, and Yemen). In this regard, all but three States Parties submitted updated work plans despite the ISU and Committee on Article 5 engagement.

43. Additionally, the ISU provided support to States Parties by addressing inquiries concerning their participation in the 1 March 2024 Ninth Annual Pledging Conference, the 18-20 June 2024 Intersessional Meetings, the 20 June 2024 First Preparatory Meeting for the Fifth Review Conference, the 18 September Second Preparatory Meeting for the Fifth Review Conference, the 25-29 November 2024 Fifth Review Conference, and matters related to UN assessed contributions, amongst other Convention-related matters.

44. The ISU supported 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 2024, including a Sponsorship Programme for both the 18-20 June 2024 Intersessional Meetings and the 25-29 November 2024 Fifth Review Conference. The ISU also supported the Sponsorship Programme Coordinator in its efforts to mobilize resources. The ISU further supported the Sponsorship Programme by 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”**

45. 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.

46. On 8-11 April 2024, the ISU participated in the 20th International Symposium on Mine Action held by Croatia in Dubrovnik. On this occasion, the ISU participated in a panel discussion on National Achievement in Mine Action and presented on the Progress and Challenges in Implementation towards the Fifth Review Conference.

47. From 29 April to 1 May 2024, the ISU participated in the International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and United Nations Advisors. The ISU supported the Committees in holding a number of bilateral meetings and presented in a side event on anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature organized by UNMAS.

48. On 30 May 2024, during their time in Geneva, the ISU presented on the Convention the ISU's work to the *UN Disarmament fellows* representing 24 different States.



49. On 13 June 2024, in collaboration with Zambia, the ISU supported the President in addressing the African Group of Experts on Disarmament to update them on preparations for the Fifth Review Conference. The ISU provided a presentation on the status of implementation of the Convention in Africa and on the goals and objectives of the Fifth Review Conference.

50. On 24-26 June 2024, the ISU participated in a Wilton Park retreat organized by the United Kingdom Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) and the Royal Government of Cambodia, entitled “Preparing for success at the Fifth Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention”. The meeting brought together donors and other influential stakeholders to discuss key mine action challenges to assist the development of the Siem Reap – Angkor Action Plan 2025-2029.

51. On 27 June 2024, the ISU participated in a panel during a side event entitled “Harnessing the human rights system in advancing towards mine-free world and restoring victim’s rights” organized by the Permanent Mission of Croatia to the United Nations office in Geneva.

52. The ISU continued to update and enhance the Convention’s website ([www.apminebanconvention.org](http://www.apminebanconvention.org)). Efforts were also initiated to upgrade the website’s security with its provider following a cyberattack early in the year.

53. The ISU continued distributing news on the implementation of the Convention on the Convention’s social media channels and through the distribution 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”**

54. The ISU created a page on the Convention’s website for the 1 March 2024 Ninth International Pledging Conference, the 18-20 June 2024 Intersessional Meetings, and the 24-29 November 2024 Fifth Review Conference as well as for the First (20 June 2024) and Second (18 September 2024) preparatory meetings. The ISU also ensured that the documents and statements delivered at the Intersessional Meetings were made available on the Convention’s website, including recordings of the panel discussions.

55. The ISU continued its efforts to ensure the Convention's active presence on social media and news outlets, including Flicker, 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”**

56. 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, United Nations agencies, including UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNMAS and WHO, amongst others. The ISU continued participating 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.

57. The ISU continued to liaise with the different disarmament Convention Secretariats including the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons as well as academic institutions.

58. The ISU also made efforts to strengthen its working relationships 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.

### III. Gender and diversity

59. In 2024, 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 of and is committed to ensuring that gender and diversity issues are considered in every aspect of its work.

61. In 2024, in cooperation with the Sponsorship Programme Coordinator, Australia, the ISU continued its efforts to encourage delegations to consider an appropriate gender balance and role in their delegations at informal and formal meetings of the Convention. The Sponsorship Programme for the 18-20 June 2024 meetings supported the participation of a total of 34 delegates from 25 States Parties, including 22 mine clearance experts and 12 victim assistance experts. A total of 30% of sponsored delegates were women. Due to a variety of reasons, 9 additional delegates had to cancel their participation, including visa refusal and personal issues.

#### IV. Staffing

62. As of 31 October 2024, the ISU's staffing consists of 3.6 full-time equivalent staff positions, including a Director (100%), Implementation Support Specialist (60%), and two Implementation Support Officers (100%). The ISU also includes 1 full-time EU Council Decision Project and Communications Manager and 1 full time support position. The EU Project fully funds these positions (2021-2025).

#### V. Finances

##### A. Implementation Support Unit Work Plan and Budget 2023

63. The ISU's 2024 work plan projected expenditures for core support totalled **CHF 769'810**. In 2024 (to date), the ISU has received contributions to its 2024 work plan totalling **CHF 432'752** from the following 19 States Parties: **Algeria, Australia, Austria, Cambodia, Canada, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Slovenia, Switzerland, Thailand, Türkiye, and the United Kingdom** (See Table 1). Furthermore, an additional **CHF 284'703** was deferred from 2023. Expenses of the ISU to 30 October 2024 total **CHF 621'785** (See Table 2).

64. In accordance with the "Decision on strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU", over the course of 2024, the ISU presented quarterly reports to the Coordinating Committee on finances and activities related to the implementation of the ISU's 2024 work plan.

**B. 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 2024, as of 31 October 2024, no surplus was provisionally placed in the financial security buffer, totalling **CHF 758’665**. (See Table 4).

**C. Administrative support provided by the GICHD to the ISU in accordance with the agreement with the States Parties in 2024**

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 2024 to provide infrastructure and administrative support for the operations of the ISU through a financial contribution from Switzerland.

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.

**Table 1: Financing of the ISU's 2024 work plan (received by 31 October 2024)**

<i>Contributions Received</i>		<i>CHF</i>
1	Algeria	4'776
2	Australia	80'163
3	Austria	12'172
4	Cambodia	2'524
5	Canada	74'480
6	Estonia	4'577
7	Finland	9'578
8	Germany	47'251
9	Ireland	14'101
10	Japan	18'565
11	Mexico	8'972
12	Netherlands	37'012
13	Norway	25'333
14	Peru	4'908
15	Slovenia	4'719
16	Switzerland	60'000
17	Thailand	10'000
18	Türkiye	2'665
19	United Kingdom	10'956
<b>Total contributions 2024</b>		<b>432'752</b>
Contributions deferred to 2024		284'703
<b>Total</b>		<b>717'455</b>

**Table 2: ISU 2024 work plan expenses (31 October)**

<i>2024 Expenses</i>	<i>CHF</i>
Staff costs	550'986
Staff Travel	28'978
Communication, public relations, and other support costs	41'821
<b>Total</b>	<b>621'785</b>

**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
<b>Total contributions to financial Security Buffer</b>	CHF384'521
Surplus 2016	CHF 225'440
<b>Total of the Security Buffer 31.12.2016</b>	CHF 609'961
Surplus 2017	CHF 202'471
<b>Total of the Security Buffer 31.12.2017</b>	CHF 812'432
Expenditures Enhanced Support 2018	-CHF 74'029
Surplus 2018	CHF 248'110 <sup>3</sup>
<b>Total of the Security Buffer 31.12.2018</b>	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
<b>Total of the Security Buffer 31.12.2019</b>	CHF 1'006'776
Allotment to the ISU Work Plan 2020	-CHF 248'110
<b><sup>4</sup>Total of the Security Buffer 31.12.2021</b>	CHF 758'665
Allotment to the ISU Work Plan 2021	CHF 0
<b>Total of the Security Buffer 31.12.2022</b>	CHF 758'665
Allotment to the ISU Work Plan 2022	CHF 0
<b>Total of the Security Buffer 31.12.2023</b>	CHF 758'665

<sup>3</sup> 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.