

Ninth Annual Pledging Conference
Statement by the Director of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Implementation Support Unit

Your Excellency..... Let me start by saying what a pleasure it is for the ISU to support Cambodia and to work closely with you your excellency.

Allow me to thank all of you for joining us today and for all of your kind expressions of support over the years to the ISU.

For the ISU it is a pleasure to implement our mandate of providing support to the President and the Convention office holders in implementing their respective mandates, to support states with the implementation of their commitments under the Convention and to work with all of our partners (the ICBL, ICRC , the UN and humanitarian demining operators and organization working on matters concerning victim assistance and the rights of person with disabilities) to ensure that our joint aim of fulling implementation of the Convention are reached as soon as possible. The ISU very much appreciates working with committed organization and individuals.

This is an important year, with the 25th anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention and the Fifth Review Conference to be held in Siem Reap at the end of this year.

It is also a time when States and partners are getting to work on looking at the way we do business and see where we can make adjustments to get us closer to implementation of the Convention's objectives. And it's really fantastic for the ISU to be a part of this.

Last year in 2023 we received contributions from a total of 21 States Parties (including Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Türkiye) We thank these States for their important contribution.

We also thank our host Switzerland, for its support to our work through, not only their contribution to the voluntary trust fund but also their contribution to GICHD to cover other costs of the ISU (office space, financial and human resource support) as well as the GICHD for its continued support in hosting the ISU.

The 2024 Work Plan and budget adopted by the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties totals CHF 769'810. As you can appreciate from our work plan, 86% of this amount is designated for salaries of staff member and 14% for activities of the unit including communications, travel, translation, short term support, public relations and other support costs.

I want to hand it over to my colleagues Sophie Delfolie to give you an overview of our main activities of our work plan in 2024.

[Sophie Speaks)

In addition to the activities Sophie has mentioned, as many of you know, the ISU is honoured to be in the process of implementing an EU Council Decision in support of the Convention and the Oslo Action Plan. This support has allowed us to support States Parties in their implementation efforts. This year we already had the opportunity of hosting a regional conference concerning improvised anti-personnel mines and other activities are being planned throughout the year in the lead up to the Fifth Review Conference.

Finally, this year, with the support of the President and members of the coordinating committee the ISU will be drafting its 5 year work plan 2025-2029. The drafting of a 5 year plan was introduced in order to encourage States to offer contributions on a multi-annual basis. Some of you already do so and we appreciate this. As ISU operates solely on voluntary contributions, multi annual contributions as well as your pledges of support, offer us the certainty for us to carry out our work with confidence.

We are looking forward to supporting you Mr. President and all the States Parties in ensuring a successful Review Conference year.

As I mentioned in the past, we do not for one second take your contributions for granted, no matter the size of your contributions. Our doors at the ISU are of course always open for any information you would like concerning the operation of the ISU.

Thank you.