

Tenth 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 Japan and to work closely with your Excellency. It is also a pleasure to work with my esteemed colleagues at the ISU.

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 support implementation of the Convention.

This is an important year, as we embark on supporting the implementation of the decision adopted by the States Parties at the Fifth Review Conference in a different context.

We thank all the States Parties that have provided voluntary contribution to the ISU and have supported our efforts in other ways. Last year in 2024 we received contributions from a total of 24 States Parties (including Algeria, Australia, Austria, Cambodia, Canada, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Türkiye and the United Kingdom). We thank these States for their important contributions.

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 cover other costs of the ISU (office space, financial and human resource support) in line with the hosting agreement signed between the States Parties and the GICHD.

The work plan of the ISU for 2024, was estimated at CHF 769'000. We are still closing the books of the ISU for 2024, however expenditures of the ISU for 2024 at the moment expenditures in 2024 are estimated at 765'000. Unfortunately, the contributions received in 2024 will not cover the entire ISU budget for 2024. In this regard, the ISU will need to use a significant amount of its carry over from previous years. This year with your support we will be able to match contributions to the ISU work plan estimated expenditures.

The 2025 Work Plan and budget adopted by the Fifth Review Conference totals CHF 775'684, 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.

At the Fifth Review Conference we also adopted a five year work plan for the ISU. The decision to draft a five year work plan was taken to, and I quote “ascertain the financial needs of the ISU over time. This shall be understood by States Parties as an encouragement to plan contributions on a multi-annual basis. »

The workplan for the ISU is available so I will not go into detail on the contents. Our aim is to continue implementation of our mandate which includes:

- Support the informal and formal meetings of the Convention
- Provide substantive support to the President and office holders including informal groups such as the UCG and the Sponsorship Programme Coordinator.
- Provide advice and support to States Parties in their implementation efforts
- Promote communication regarding the convention to States not party and the public.
- Keep records of informal and formal meetings
- Liaise with relevant organizations that participate in the work of the Convention

We do our best with the human resources we have been provided with which total 3.6 full time equivalent staff positions. As you can appreciate there is a limit to what we can accomplish. We do our best.

Additionally, 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 and we are

working with the EU to finalize a subsequent decision on a project that will support implementation of the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan.

This support has and will allow us to support States Parties in their implementation efforts in the lead up to the Sixth Review Conference in 2029. It also provides additional human resources required to implement the project which strengthens the work of the ISU and I thank my colleagues in this regard.

As the 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 Madam President and all the States Parties in their work and implementation efforts.

Our doors at the ISU are of course always open for any information you would like concerning the operation of the ISU.

Thank you.