



IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT UNIT

STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE GICHD

Madam President,

On 7 November 2001, the then Director of the GICHD and the President of the Third Meeting of the States Parties, signed the *Agreement between the States Parties of the Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines and the Geneva International Centre For Humanitarian Demining on Implementation Support for the Convention*. This agreement provided the Director of the GICHD with the mandate to establish an implementation support unit (ISU) within the GICHD and to set up a voluntary trust for the ISU to finance its ongoing activities.

In accordance with this agreement, I am pleased to submit a written report on the functioning of the ISU covering the period between the 9 MSP and the Second Review Conference.

My full report is contained in document number [APLC/CONF/2009/5]. As this document has been distributed to you, I will briefly only highlight a few aspects.

- 1) The ISU has continued to carry on its core activities as described in the agreement between the States Parties and the GICHD, that is to:
 - provide professional and independent advice and support to the Convention's President, Co-Chairs and individual States Parties;
 - assist the Co-Chairs in organizing meetings of the Standing Committees and the outgoing President, Ambassador Jürg Streuli, and the President designate, Ambassador Susan Eckey as well as Colombia in preparing for the Second Review Conference;

- provide information to States Parties on all matters related to the Convention;
- provide advice to the informal sponsorship programme;
- maintain the Convention's documentation centre.

In addition, the ISU has continued to

- advise States Parties on the preparation of article 5 extension requests and support the work of the analyzing group;
- provide service to States Parties that have reported the responsibility for significant number of landmine survivors.

With special funding from the EU, the ISU has implemented the EU Joint Action aimed at supporting the universalization and implementation of the Convention and thereby contributing to the success of the Cartagena Summit. Through the EU Joint Action, the ISU supported Nicaragua, Thailand, Tajikistan, South Africa and Albania to host regional workshops or conferences. In addition, the ISU has been able to respond to 14 requests by States for short term technical advisory missions.

- 2) The ISU Director, Kerry Brinkert and his team have again completed their tasks with great enthusiasm and professionalism, and I am glad that the support is well appreciated by the States Parties. The ISU comprises roughly 5 staff positions, but more GICHD staff is contributing to the performance of the ISU, be it in conference management, website maintenance, publications, administering the sponsorship programme, accounting and so on. In addition to administrative and logistical support, there are a good number of technical mine action experts in the Operations Division of the GICHD who are ready to feed in specific know-how if needed, e.g. on land release procedures.
- 3) In agreeing to establish the ISU, the States Parties have accepted that they would provide the necessary financial resources for the operations of the ISU through voluntary contributions to an "ISU Trust Fund" established by the GICHD. The ISU Trust Fund budget for 2009 totaled CHF 945'000. While the expenditures are more or less on track, we have to state a serious shortfall in revenues. At present, it is estimated that the ISU Trust Fund will

find itself in a deficit situation at the end of 2009. If necessary additional contributions are not received between now and the end of 2009, this deficit will need to be covered in 2010 which is in sharp contrast to previous years when positive carry over were noted. The States Parties find themselves at a point where they must make important decisions regarding either providing sustainable funding or accepting a reduction in services and support from the ISU. The Coordination Committee is aware of this situation.

- 4) I wish to thank the donors that have contributed to the ISU Trust Fund and assure all States Parties of the continuous support of me as Director of the GICHD personally and the whole Centre. The proposed examination and evaluation of the ISU will be an opportunity for the GICHD to show and explain to the States Parties of the APMBC the different ways it is supporting the ISU and the implementation mechanism in general, and the strength of the current setup based on the *Agreement between the States Parties of the Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines and the Geneva International Centre For Humanitarian Demining on Implementation Support for the Convention*.