



2017

FINAL REPORT

**THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE,
STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-
PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT UNIT



FINAL REPORT
2017 ACTIVITIES, FUNCTIONING AND FINANCES OF THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION
IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT UNIT

Submitted by the Director of the Implementation Support Unit

31 March 2018

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 of 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 the *Implementation Support Unit Work Plan and Budget 2016-2019*. Furthermore, the 14MSP 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 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 2016 Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties (15MSP) the States Parties adopted the *Implementation Support Unit Work Plan and Budget 2017*.
5. Contributions for *Implementation Support Unit Work Plan and Budget 2017* were received from the following 27 States Parties – Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Luxembourg,

Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

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 meetings²”

6. The ISU prepared, supported and carried out follow-up activities associated with seven meetings of the Coordinating Committee. At the first meeting of the Coordinating Committee, on 26 January 2017, the ISU provided a briefing for Coordinating Committee members concerning the status of the Convention. As a result, Committee members had an increased understanding of the status of implementation of the Convention. In addition to the meetings of the Coordinating Committee the ISU supported approximately 25 meetings of the Convention’s Committees in 2017.
7. The ISU provided support to the President and the Convention’s Committees in developing annual work plans and establishing key objectives to meet their respective mandates. In doing so, the ISU supported the Committees in preparing and distributing initial communications to relevant States Parties including, at the time, the 31 States Parties implementing mine clearance obligations under Article 5 of the Convention, the 29 States Parties which have indicated that they have significant numbers – hundreds or thousands – of landmine survivors and the 4 States Parties in which allegations of use of mines in territory under their jurisdiction or control persist.
8. The ISU provided support to the President in preparing and distributing initial communication including to all States Parties concerning the President’s mandate to lead efforts to mobilise sufficient resources to fund the operations of the ISU; to Belarus, Greece, Oman and Ukraine concerning the President’s mandate related to stockpile destruction; to the 35 States not party which were a target of the President’s universalization efforts, and; to the 59 States Parties that have not indicated having developed national legislation or indicated that legislation in place is sufficient to address matters under Article 9 of the Convention. The ISU further supported the President in holding bilateral discussions with States not party by providing background material. Furthermore, the ISU supported the President in the establishment of the Informal Working Group on Universalization as mandated by the 15MSP.
9. The ISU supported the President in preparing and distributing a communication to all States Parties recalling the importance of submitting their annual transparency reports under Article 7 by the 30 April 2017 deadline as well as encouraging States Parties to employ the Guide to Reporting adopted by the States Parties at the 14MSP and its sample annex as well as to seek the support of the ISU on this matter.
10. On the margins of the 7-10 February 2017 20th International Meeting of Mine Action National Programme Directors and United Nations Advisors, the ISU supported the Committee on Article 5 Implementation and the Committee on Victim Assistance in hosting side events with representatives of relevant States Parties. These side events offered a platform for the

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. The Committee on Cooperative Compliance is chaired by the Presidency and has four Committee members.

Committees to outline the importance of reporting and the support available to them as well as for States Parties to indicate the challenges they continue to face in reporting. During 2017 the Committees reported an increase in reporting levels by States Parties implementing core obligations of the Convention.

11. Also on the margins of the International Meeting of Mine Action National Programme Directors and United Nations Advisors, the ISU supported the Committee on Article 5 Implementation in holding bilateral meetings with the five States Parties that indicated to the 15MSP would be submitting requests for extension of their Article 5 deadlines: Angola, Ecuador, Iraq, Thailand, Ukraine and Zimbabwe. The ISU also supported the Committee on Cooperative Compliance in organising bilateral meetings with 3 of the States Parties in which allegations of use of anti-personnel mines in areas under their jurisdiction or control (Ukraine, South Sudan and Sudan) persist, as well as with the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and Human Rights Watch. Furthermore, the ISU supported the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance in holding bilateral meetings with Sudan and other interested States Parties concerning the Committee's individualised approach, as well as with Croatia (a State Party which participated in the individualised approach during the 15MSP) and international and non-governmental organisations (MAG, NPA, ICBL, ICRC) to receive their feedback on the individualised approach.
12. The ISU supported the President in his participation during the International Meeting of Mine Action National Programme Directors and United Nations Advisors. The ISU also used the opportunity to hold a number of bilateral meetings and discussions with partners.
13. The ISU provided support and advice to the President in planning and hosting the Second International Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention held on 28 February 2017. The ISU also provided support in follow-up to the Conference including communicating with States Parties concerning their pledges and developing, finalising and distributing the final conference document as well as ensuring that the interventions from States at the pledging conference were uploaded to the Convention's website.
14. During the week of 6 March 2017, the ISU supported the Committee on Article 5 Implementation in arranging bilateral meetings with representatives of the Permanent Missions of Eritrea, Ethiopia and Senegal concerning their commitment to submit updated work plans in accordance with the decision of the States Parties on their requests for extension. During the same week the ISU also supported the Committee on Cooperative Compliance in arranging a bilateral meeting with a representative of the Permanent Mission of Yemen.
15. On 7 June 2017, the ISU supported the President in co-hosting with the President of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the GICHD a Seminar on "Universalizing Land Release" with the objective of providing information on key principles of land release and to look at practical examples of its application and their positive implications on the development of mine action programmes. The ISU offered a presentation during this seminar on the importance of International Mine Action Standards to the implementation of the Convention as expressed by the States Parties.
16. The ISU provided advice and support to the President and the Committees in their preparations for the 8-9 June 2017 intersessional meetings. In doing so, the ISU supported the President's and Committee's efforts in finalising preliminary observations and other documents for the meeting, their preparations for side events, the development and distribution of the invitation and programme for the intersessional meetings, contracting of interpreters for the meeting and servicing officeholders, the States Parties and other participants to ensure a successful meeting. The ISU also provided support to the Committees in their efforts to communicate to States Parties, prior to the intersessional meetings, information to encourage and guide their

participation. Additionally, the ISU provided additional communication support to the States Parties to ensure that the work of the Convention's Committees, of the President and of the States Parties remains visible.

17. Furthermore, the ISU supported the President in the organisation of a panel discussion concerning the operators' perspective on 2025 including panellists from Danish Demining Group, the HALO Trust, Mines Advisory Group, and Norwegian People's Aid. In total, over 315 delegates were registered to participate in these meetings representing 78 States and numerous international and non-governmental organisations.
18. During the 8-9 June 2017 intersessional meetings, the ISU supported the Committee on Article 5 Implementation in holding bilateral meetings with representatives of States Parties that submitted or were expected to submit requests for extension in 2017 including Angola, Ecuador, Iraq, Thailand, Ukraine and Zimbabwe and representatives of States Parties that submitted or were due to submit updated work plans in accordance with the decisions taken by the States Parties in granting their requests for extension including Ethiopia, Niger and Senegal.
19. The ISU further supported the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance and Sudan in the preparations and hosting of the individualised approach for Sudan held on 8 June 2017 on the margins of the intersessional meetings. The ISU also supported follow-up actions including through support to the preparation and distribution of the final report.
20. The ISU supported the President with preparations for the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties (16MSP) including by carrying out a planning mission to Vienna on 3 March 2017 as well as a joint planning mission to Vienna with a representative of UNODA during the period of 26-28 April 2017 to meet with key individuals of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Austria as well as of the United Nations in Vienna and provide advice on substantial and organisational matters concerning the 16MSP. The ISU also provided support to the development of an initial agenda and programme for the 16MSP and subsequently distributed, on behalf of the President, documents for presentation and discussion at the Convention's 2017 intersessional meetings. The ISU also established a page for the 16MSP on the Convention's website.
21. Following the 8-9 June intersessional meetings, the ISU provided support to the Committees and the President in issuing follow-up communication to relevant States Parties concerning the information contained in the preliminary observations of the Committees and requesting any additional information or clarification on information submitted in order for the Committees to prepare their conclusions and recommendations for the 16MSP. This included, in particular, follow-up letters to States Parties with outstanding reporting commitments and other commitments in line with their obligations under the Convention, Maputo Action Plan and decisions made by States Parties on previously granted requests for extension.
22. Over the period of 31 March – 30 October, the ISU supported the Committee on Article 5 Implementation in implementing its mandate to prepare and submit to the States Parties an analysis of requests submitted by Angola, Ecuador, Iraq, Thailand and Zimbabwe including by supporting the Committee in its communication with the requesting States Parties as well as with expert organisations to request additional information and expert input following the submission of the requests. The ISU also supported the Committee in their engagement with States Parties that had been granted requests by previous Meetings of the States Parties and where required to act upon specific decisions made on their requests.
23. The ISU supported the Committee on Victim Assistance in organising, on three occasions, meetings with representatives from the office of the United National High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the International Labour Organisation with the purpose of furthering collaboration with these entities in support of the Committee's victim assistance efforts.

24. In light of continued financial uncertainty concerning UN support to the Convention's meetings the ISU continued its support to the President by providing an estimated forecast of documents for the 16MSP containing proposals for cost saving measures.
25. The ISU initiated its support to the incoming President of the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties (17MSP) by providing support in identifying dates for Convention meetings in 2018 and in providing a preliminary calendar for activities in 2018.
26. The ISU provided support to the Presidency, Committee members and delegations in their participation at the 16MSP. In collaboration with the UN, the ISU also ensured that all the statements and other information provided by the delegations were collected in order to ensure a comprehensive record of the meeting. On the margins of the 16MSP the ISU supported the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance to hold meetings with States Parties seeking additional information concerning possible participation in the individualized approach. Additionally during the 16MSP the ISU supported the President in hosting bureau meetings during the week and in arranging a meeting of the Committee on Cooperative Compliance. Furthermore, the ISU supported the President in establishing a calendar of side events and in managing exhibition space at the conference venue.
27. As anticipated in the drafting of the Work Plan and Budget for 2017, the work of the ISU in support of the Committees ensured that office holders were able to perform in a manner that was satisfactory to the States Parties. Likewise, the support from the ISU contributed to ensuring a successful pledging conference, intersessional meetings and 16MSP.

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

28. The ISU provided advice to States Parties that indicated would submit requests for extended mine clearance deadlines in 2017 (Angola, Ecuador, Iraq, Thailand and Zimbabwe) and began doing so with respect to the two States Parties that had indicated would need to or may need to submit requests for consideration by the 17MSP Parties (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Sudan) and one State (Cambodia) that would need to submit a request for consideration by the Fourth Review Conference. This support included support missions by the ISU as follows:
 - a. On 20-25 February 2017, the ISU carried out a mission to Angola to provide advice and support to Angola in the development of their Article 5 extension request;
 - b. On 13-16 March 2017, the ISU carried out a mission to Thailand to provide advice and support to Thailand in the development of their extension request;
 - c. On 2-6 July 2017, the ISU carried out a follow-up mission to Angola to provide advice and support to Angola in the development of their extension request;
 - d. On 17-21 July 2017, the ISU carried out a mission to Sudan to provide advice and support to Sudan in the development of their extension request;
 - e. On 24-28 July 2017, the ISU carried out a mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina to provide advice and support to Bosnia and Herzegovina in the development of their extension request;
 - f. On 24-28 September 2017, the ISU carried out a follow-up mission to Sudan in to support the development of their extension request;
 - g. On 19-20 October 2017, the ISU carried out a follow-up mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina to support the development of their extension request;
 - h. On 23 October 2017, the ISU carried out a mission to Serbia to provide advice and support to Serbia in the development of their extension request;
 - i. On 29 October to 2 November 2017, the ISU carried out a mission to Cambodia to provide advice and support to Cambodia concerning their obligations under Article 5 and support the initial planning for development of their extension request.

29. In addition to these States, the ISU provided advice to a number of States Parties on the implementation of their Convention obligations and on reporting on their commitments under the Convention and Maputo Action Plan.
30. Additionally, the ISU provided support to the States Parties by answering numerous inquiries concerning participation in the 28 February 2017 Second International Pledging Conference, the 8-9 June intersessional meetings, the 18-21 December 2017 16MSP and other Convention related meetings.
31. Over the course of 2017 the ISU participated in a number of discussions concerning the financial situation concerning UN support to the Meetings of the States Parties. The ISU also responded to numerous inquiries from States Parties concerning the financial situation concerning the convention and, in particular, the 16MSP.
32. Over the course of 2017 the ISU participated in a number of discussions concerning Improvised Explosive Devices and the Convention, including participating in the following event: *Wilton Park dialogue: Clearance of improvised explosive devices in the Middle East* held on 22-24 May 2017.
33. The ISU supported the initial efforts of the Coordinator of the Sponsorship Programme in mobilising resources for the Sponsorship Programme in 2017 as well as on the strategic approach to using limited sponsorship funds available to the Programme for the intersessional meetings and the 16MSP. The ISU also supported the Coordinator of the Sponsorship Programme in preparing invitation letters for 13 States Parties to request sponsorship for the 8-9 June 2017 intersessional meetings, and to approximately 24 States Parties to request sponsorship for the 18-21 December 2017 16MSP.

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

34. The ISU received and responded to numerous inquiries from States Parties, States not party and organisations regarding participation in the Convention’s activities as well as on the status of the Convention and had the opportunity to engage with a number of partners and organisations including during Convention meetings in Geneva and on mission.
35. On 16 January 2017, the ISU travelled to Brussels to brief the EU Mine Action Inter Service Group on the status and current challenges of the Convention.
36. The ISU delivered a presentation on the Convention and its implementation mechanisms at the 14th International Symposium and Equipment Exhibition “Mine Action 2017” hosted in Croatia on 24-26 April 2017.
37. The ISU continued to make itself available to student groups and others that wish to learn about the Convention and its implementation processes including by offering presentations to students from North-eastern University on 30 May 2017. The ISU also provided support to students researching matters concerning the Convention.
38. The ISU offered a briefing to donors during a donor seminar hosted by the GICHD on 3-5 April 2017.
39. The ISU provided additional communications support to the States Parties including during the 28 February 2017 Second International Pledging Conference and during the 8-9 June 2017 intersessional meetings as well as in the lead up to the 20th Anniversary of the Convention. Events related to the 20th Anniversary included organizing a photo by the *broken chair* for delegated attending the intersessional meetings, supporting the organization of a 1 December

panel on the Convention, held at the Permanent Mission of Canada, organizing with Handicap International and the GICHD a joint photo exhibition, preparing a brochure providing a historic overview of the *Ottawa Process*, updating the website to include a history of the Ottawa Process and supporting States in communicating their activities and participating in events commemorating the anniversary.

40. On 23 August 2017 the ISU provided an overview of the Convention to participants of the 2017 The United Nations Programme of Fellowship on Disarmament.
41. On 16-18 October 2017, the ISU participated as a panellist as well as moderated an additional panel at an event entitled “Conference on the 20th Anniversary of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention: From the Ottawa Process Toward a Mine Free World”, marking the 20th Anniversary of the adoption and signature of the Convention organized by the Government of Croatia, Canada and RACVIAC Centre for Security Cooperation with the financial support of Germany. This event was held in Zagreb, Croatia.
42. The ISU continued to update and enhance the Convention’s website, including by establishing content for the Second International Pledging Conference, intersessional meetings and the 16MSP. The ISU put considerable effort into revising content on the Convention’s website (www.apminebanconvention.org). In 2017, the ISU began a process of redesigning its website.
43. The ISU continued carrying out its commitments as observer on the International Mine Action Standards Review Board by participating in discussions concerning Improvised Explosive Devices and related issues.

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”

44. In 2017, the ISU continued to make available information related to the outcomes of the 15MSP, collecting outstanding statements and uploading of statement and presentations offered by States and organisations to the Convention’s website.
45. The ISU collected statements from delegations during the Second International Pledging Conference making them available online and communicated the outcomes of the Second International Pledging Conference to States and organisations through the distribution of the Final Report of the Conference.
46. The ISU also ensured that the volume of documents and statements generated at the Second International Pledging Conference, the 8-9 June 2017 intersessional meetings and the 18-21 December 2017 16MSP were collected and made available on the Convention’s website.

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”

47. The ISU met on several occasions with the ICRC, ICBL member organisations including the EU, MAG, NPA and other organization such as the HALO Trust, the UNDP, UNMAS, the GICHD to discuss collaboration in supporting implementation and universalization of the Convention.
48. The ISU met with other organisations that wished to have additional information or clarification concerning the Convention’s legal parameters. In particular concerning discussion on particular types of “improvised explosive devices”.

49. The ISU continued to liaise with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), including by attending relevant portions of and supporting the Committee on Victim Assistance in delivering statements to the Thirty-fourth session of the Human Rights Council.

Extra-Budgetary tasks

European Council Decision in support of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

50. The ISU carried out a mission to Brussels to engage the European Union on the implementation of a proposed EU Council Decision (EUCD) in support of the Convention. It was noted that a EUCD was a great opportunity to support the implementation of the Convention and the Maputo Action Plan. The EUCD was subsequently endorsed by the Coordinating Committee of the Convention. The Coordinating Committee expressed general appreciation for the commitment of the EU to proceed with a EUCD and to provide the funding necessary to the ISU to implement this decision. The EUCD entered into force on 30 October 2017.
51. The EUCD includes funding for additional human resources to support the activities foreseen in the decision to ensure alignment with the decision of the 14MSP, in particular the matter concerning “extra-budgetary tasks”. In November 2017 the ISU engaged one of two full-time staff to fulfil the requirements of the EUCD project in favour of the Convention.
52. Under the EUCD, a number of mine clearance, disability and victim assistance stakeholders including international and non-governmental organisations, have been engaged to provide feedback on States Parties better placed to benefit from national stakeholder dialogues to support the implementation of the Maputo Action Plan in these areas.
53. The EUCD Project began engagement with a number of States not party where enhanced engagement in universalization could provide positive results. For this purpose, the ISU is working closely with the Convention’s Presidency and States Parties and international and non-governmental organisations. A number of demarches have begun in Geneva as a result of the project.
54. In 2017, the EUCD Project engaged at the highest level with Sri Lanka, then a State not party. Communication from the Convention Special Envoy encouraged Sri Lanka to finalise its accession process while requesting a presidential hearing to continue such conversation. The communication received a positive response when approximately a month later Sri Lanka deposited its instrument of accession. Subsequently, an invitation from the President was received to visit Sri Lanka during the first quarter of 2018.

Gender and diversity:

55. In 2017, 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 and that there is gender balance in terms of panellists;
 - b. conducting accessibility verifications prior to engaging in the use of any meeting facility;
 - c. proposing that invitation letters to meetings, workshops and conferences encourage diverse participation;

- d. ensuring that the principal tools used by the ISU in supporting States Parties continue to take into account age and gender;
- e. advising States Parties in preparing Article 5 extension requests on the collection and analysis of sex and age disaggregated data and information; and continuing to place an increasing emphasis on ISU staff using gender and age sensitive language that promotes a positive and inclusive image of women and men with disabilities.

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

Staffing:

57. In 2017 the staffing of the ISU consisted of three staff positions amounting to 2.6 full time equivalent staff positions: Director (100%), Implementation Support Specialist (60%) and an Implementation Support Officer (100%).

58. In support of the Convention's communication efforts, the ISU periodically engaged a communications consultant to support specific activities. In particular, additional support included communication support for the 28 February 2017 Second International Pledging Conference, the 8-9 June 2017 intersessional meetings, in the lead up to the Convention's 20th Anniversary celebrations and for the 18-21 16MSP.

59. Under "extra budgetary tasks" the ISU filled the position of Coordinator of the project and aims to staff the second of two positions to support the implementation of the EUCD during the first quarter of 2018.

Finances:

Implementation Support Unit Work Plan and Budget 2017

60. The ISU's 2017 work plan projects expenditures for core support in 2017 totalling **CHF 515'429**. In 2017 the ISU received contributions to its work plan totalling **CHF 706'059** from the following 27 States Parties: Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Luxembourg, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey and the United Kingdom. (See Table 1). In addition to these contributions, CHF **13'315** was carried over from 2016. Expenses in 2017 total **CHF 505'603.10** (See Table 2).

61. In accordance with the "*Decision on strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU*", over the course of the first half of 2017, the ISU presented quarterly reports and a final report to the Coordinating Committee on finances and activities related to the implementation of the ISU's 2017 work plan.

Financial Security Buffer

62. 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 for 2016 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 with the objective of reaching the desired level during a transition period that closes in the year 2019. At present, the financial security buffer has received contributions totalling CHF 384'521 from the following four States Parties: Belgium, Estonia, the Netherlands and Switzerland (See Table 3).

63. 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. Over the course of 2016, the ISU communicated with contributors to inquire about the use of their contribution in order to prepare for a possible surplus. Based on the results of these discussions and information provided by contributing States Parties, the surplus which was provisionally placed in the financial security buffer at the end of 2016 totalled CHF 225’440. (See Table 3).
64. The decision further indicates that, at the next occasion, as part of the yearly budget approval process, the Meeting of the States Parties or the Review Conference shall decide on how to apportion the surplus. The decision also indicates that expenditures related to enhanced support can be financed from surplus financial means not needed for the financial security buffer if the Meeting of the States Parties or the Review Conference so decides in the course of the yearly budget approval process.
65. At the 16MSP, the States Parties decided that in the context of considering the operation and status of the Convention and recalling the 14MSP’s decision on “Strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU”, the Meeting approved the apportion of the 2016 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) the surplus financial means not needed for the financial security buffer are allocated to expenditures related to enhanced support as provided for in the Implementation Support Unit 2018 Work Plan and Budget.
66. As per the decision of the 14MSP, agreements in place, and information provided by the States Parties, the surplus which was provisionally placed in the financial security buffer at the end of 2017 totalled CHF 202’471. Contributions amounting to CHF 11’300 which was not placed in the financial security buffer due to existing restrictions indicated by contributing States were carried over to 2018 (See Table 2).

Administrative support provided by the GICHD to the ISU and the States Parties in 2017

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 2017 to provide infrastructure and administrative support for the operations of the ISU.
68. In addition, the GICHD continued to support the organisation of the intersessional meetings by covering the cost of the venue, interpretation, providing support staff as well as the administration of the Sponsorship Programme for the intersessional meetings and for the 16MSP.
69. Furthermore, GICHD support to the ISU includes human resources management, financial management, internal information management, office space and general logistics, information and communication services, travel services, conference management and website management. These support services are funded by Switzerland’s core contribution to the GICHD.

Table 1: Financing of the ISU's 2017 work plan

	Contributions accounted in 2017	CHF
1	Australia	106'789
2	Austria	9'800
3	Bulgaria	2'000
4	Croatia	1'500
5	Czech Republic	9'081
6	Cyprus	2'919
7	Finland	11'300
8	France	25'321
9	Germany	46'039
10	Hungary	10'754
11	Indonesia	1'658
12	Ireland	28'202
13	Italy	67'369
14	Japan	89'669
15	Jordan	973
16	Luxembourg	22'995
17	Mozambique	500
18	Netherlands	43'670
19	New Zealand	27'872
20	Philippines	1'970
21	Poland	11'527
22	Spain	11'566
23	Sweden	59'818
24	Switzerland	80'000
25	Thailand	10'000
26	Turkey	3'917
27	United Kingdom	18'850
Total contributions accounted in 2017		706'059
Contributions deferred from 2016		13'315
Total		719'373

Table 2: Financial overview for 2017

		CHF
Total Revenue		719'373
Expenses	<i>Staff costs</i>	439'525
	<i>Staff Travel</i>	34'558
	<i>Communication and other support costs</i>	31'520
Total Expenditures 2017		505'603
Surplus 2017		202'471
Carry over to 2018		11'300

Table 3: Status of the Financial Security Buffer

Allocation to the Financial Security Buffer 2014-2017 (restricted funds)	CHF
Belgium	359'832
Estonia	2,624
The Netherlands	12'065
Switzerland	10'000
Total contributions to the Financial Security Buffer	384'521
Surplus 2016	225'440
Total Security buffer at the end of 2016	609'961
<i>Allotted by 16MSP to enhanced support in 2018</i>	<i>107'199</i>
Surplus 2017	202'471 ³
Total Financial Security Buffer at the start of 2018	705'233⁴

Table 4: Extra Budgetary tasks (EU Council Decision)

		CHF
Total contributions accounted		628'540
Expenses	<i>Staff costs</i>	16'070
	<i>Staff Travel</i>	2'406
	<i>Activities</i>	467
Total Expenditures 2017		18'944

⁴ Pending the decision of the 17MSP on its allocation.

Notable successes in 2017 concerning the implementation of the Convention

- Algeria announced in Geneva, that after decades of work, it has fulfilled its mine clearance obligation under the Convention, clearing 93 mined or suspected mined areas, including 78 former mine barrages, and destroying more than one million antipersonnel mines.
- On 7 April, Belarus announced that it completed the destruction of 3.4 million 'PFM-1' anti-personnel mines, with the last 78 destroyed during a symbolic ceremony at a military base near the city of Rechitsa in the Gomel region.
- On 25 July, a new Law was adopted by Chile which provides economic compensation for beneficiaries of those killed by landmines and other explosive remnants of war, and maintains sustained commitment in the form of medical benefits, rehabilitation and integration for landmine survivors.
- On 18 September, Algeria destroyed the last 5,970 anti-personnel mines it had retained for training purposes becoming a country completely free of anti-personnel mines.
- Mauritania declared that it is carrying out its final operations to comply with the Article 5 obligations and hopes to be in a position to declare completion at the 16MSP or shortly afterwards.
- Sri Lanka acceded to the Convention on 13 December 2017.
- The State of Palestine acceded to the Convention on 29 December 2017.

Membership of the 2017 Coordinating Committee⁵



Austria (President of the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties)

Committee on Article 5 Implementation



Chile



Switzerland



Costa Rica



Zambia (Chair)

Committee on Cooperative Compliance⁶



Iraq



Sweden



Peru



United Kingdom

Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance



Algeria



The Netherlands (Chair)



Canada



Uganda

Committee on Victim Assistance



Belgium



Croatia



Colombia (Chair)



Ecuador

⁵ In keeping with past practice, the Coordinating Committee invites the UNODA, ICRC, ICBL, and GICHD as observers. Additionally, Australia, as Coordinator of the Sponsorship Programme participates in the work of the Coordinating Committee.

⁶ Chaired by the Presidency