
**Meeting 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**

24 November 2010

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Tenth Meeting
Geneva, 29 November – 3 December 2010
Item 12 of the provisional agenda
Evaluation of the Implementation Support Unit

ISU Task Force
Final report and recommendations

**Presented by the President of the Second Review Conference and Chair
of the ISU Task Force**

I. Background

1. At the 2009 Second Review Conference, the States Parties endorsed the President's paper on the establishment of an open ended Task Force with a mandate to develop terms of reference for an evaluation of the Implementation Support Unit. It was agreed that this task force would present a preliminary status report to the Meeting of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention in June 2010 and present its final report and recommendations concerning;

- (a) The tasks and responsibilities of the ISU,
- (b) The financing of the ISU,
- (c) The institutional framework for the ISU,

in time for adoption at the Tenth Meeting of the States Parties (10 MSP).

II. The Task Force

2. The Task Force has been open to all States Parties and chaired by the President of the Second Review Conference. It met for the first time on 10 February 2010, and agreed on working methods and terms of reference for an independent evaluation report of the ISU. The Task Force met again on 10 March, 2 June, 8 September and informally on 20 September. The final meeting of the Task Force was held on 3 November 2010. All States Parties have been invited to these meetings and all documents have been published on the Convention's website.

III. The Evaluation

3. The Task Force adopted its working methods as well as terms of reference for the evaluation of the ISU at its 10 February meeting and commissioned Mr Tim Caughley to undertake the evaluation. Mr Caughley presented a Preliminary Report to the Task Force on 15 April and a Final Report on 1 September 2010. The evaluation included interviews and consultations with States Parties and key stakeholders, including the UN, the ICRC and the ICBL as well as the GICHD and the ISU. These stakeholders also provided the Task Force with their views on the Final Report with oral and written submissions to the 8 September meeting. In line with the terms of reference, the Final Report presented several options on the three core questions, but no recommendations.

4. At the 8 September meeting, members of the Task Force expressed their satisfaction with and gratitude for the work of the independent consultant and the high quality of his report, as it provided an excellent basis for discussions. At the same meeting, Task Force members expressed their appreciation for the support by the GICHD as host of the ISU and also reiterated their strong appreciation for the ISU, its Director and other staff. The options presented in the Final Report were used as a basis for consultations in the Task Force with the aim of developing concrete recommendations for decisions to be made at the 10 MSP.

IV. Options and recommendations

The institutional framework for the ISU

5. The Final Report presented five options for the institutional framework, ranging from continuing with status quo to a fully independent status for the ISU. Consultations in the Task Force indicated an emerging consensus around continuing the current institutional set-up with some key adjustments. These adjustments include more clarity regarding the formal division of roles and responsibilities between the GICHD and the ISU, the need for direct reporting and budgetary responsibilities from the ISU to the States Parties, and the need to reinforce the identity and visibility of the Convention and thus its Implementation Support Unit. Such changes necessitate an amendment of the 2001 Agreement between the States Parties and the GICHD on the hosting of the ISU, and a new Directive from the States Parties for the ISU regarding its tasks and responsibilities.

6. Recommendations:

(a) The ISU will continue to be hosted by the GICHD, based on an amended Agreement between States Parties and the GICHD and on a new Directive from the States Parties to the ISU annexed to this Agreement.

(b) In order to reinforce the identity and visibility of the Convention the ISU will be identified by a distinct profile that emphasizes its role as supporting entity for the Convention, including identifiable bank account, identifiable logo, email-addresses and similar features.

(c) The GICHD Director will report to the States Parties on the functioning of the agreement between the States Parties and the GICHD.

The financing of the ISU

7. The Final Report presented five options for the financing of the ISU, ranging from continuing with the current arrangement to a system of mandatory assessed scale of contributions that would finance all activities of the ISU. There is general agreement among Task Force members of the need to review the financial model for the ISU, and on the need to establish a model that is sustainable and predictable. Consultations in the Task

Force have showed a variety of views reflecting all the options presented in the report. It seems that it is possible, in time for the 11 MSP, to gather broad support for moving to a new financial model for the ISU.

8. Consultations in the Task Force indicate that the remaining time available before the 10MSP may not be sufficient to identify and gain the support of all States Parties for a financing model for ISU. Therefore, the 10 MSP President could be tasked to carry out consultations during 2011, and present recommendations on a financing model for adoption at the 11 MSP.

9. Recommendation:

The 10 MSP asks the President to establish an open-ended working group to examine new models for the financing of the ISU, and to present recommendations on the most feasible comprehensive model, as well as a draft decision, for adoption at the 11 MSP, so it may be effective from the financial year 2012.

The tasks and responsibilities of the ISU

10. The Final Report presents six options for defining the tasks and responsibilities of the ISU. The general view of the Task Force is that the ISU has developed and evolved according to the wishes of the States Parties, and there is broad support for the activities conducted by the ISU. The Task Force also noted the value of the ISU's ability to provide meeting support and substantive advice to the Presidency, the Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs.

11. Delineating the tasks and responsibilities of the ISU has direct consequences for the financial needs of the ISU. Consultations in the Task Force indicate that there is scope for more involvement by the States Parties in the prioritisation of ISU activities and the ensuing budget.

12. The Task Force recommends a model whereby the Director of the ISU annually presents a comprehensive work plan with an accompanying budget to the Meetings of the States Parties or Review Conferences, and that the States Parties discuss and approve the work plan and budget. To guide the overall work of the ISU, the States Parties define tasks and responsibilities of the ISU in a new Directive to be annexed to the amended Agreement between the States Parties to the Convention and the GICHD. The Directive should be reviewed and amended as needed at Review Conferences of the Convention. Such a Directive could read as follows:

Directive by the States Parties to the Implementation Support Unit

Mandate of the ISU

13. The ISU shall, in support of the States Parties:

(a) 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, inter-sessional meetings, Standing Committees, the Co-ordinating Committee and the Article 5 Extension Request Analysing Group.

(b) Provide substantive and other support to the President, President-Designate Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs in their work related to all such meetings.

(c) Provide advice and technical support to States Parties on the implementation and universalization, including on the Sponsorship Program, of the Convention.

(d) Facilitate communication among the States Parties, and promote communication and information regarding the Convention towards States not Party and the public.

(e) 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.

(e) 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.

(f) Propose and present a work plan and a budget for the activities of the ISU for the following year to the Co-ordinating Committee for endorsement and subsequently to each Meeting of the States Parties or Review Conferences for approval.

(g) 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.

Finances of the ISU

14. The financing of the ISU shall be subject to decisions by Meetings of the States Parties and Review Conferences. The ISU will assist in this effort.

15. An audited Annual Financial Report (cf. Agreement GICHD - States Parties para 8) for the previous year and a preliminary Annual Financial Report for the present year shall be submitted by the ISU to the Co-ordinating Committee and subsequently to each Meeting of the States Parties or Review Conferences for approval.

16. The Financial reports shall be published on the Convention's web site after having been approved by the Meetings of the States Parties.

Recommendations

17. The tasks and responsibilities of the ISU will be defined by the States Parties according to the above draft Directive that will be annexed to the amended Agreement between the States Parties and the GICHD, and reviewed and amended as needed at Review Conferences of the Convention.

18. The ISU Director will be directly responsible to the States Parties. The ISU Director will propose and present a work plan and a budget for the activities of the ISU for the following year to the Co-ordinating Committee for endorsement and subsequently to each Meeting of the States Parties or Review Conferences for approval. The ISU Director will provide the States Parties with annual financial and activity reports.

V. The Task Force recommends that the Tenth Meeting of the States Parties adopt the following decisions:

19. Endorse this report.

20. Mandate the President, in consultation with the States Parties, to conclude an amended Agreement with the GICHD regarding the ISU.

21. Adopt the annexed 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.

22. Task the President to establish an informal open-ended working group to examine new models for the financing of the ISU, and present recommendations and draft decisions on the most feasible comprehensive financing model for adoption by the 11MSP, so it may be effective from the financial year 2012.
