UPDATE ON THE ACTIVITIES AND FINANCES OF THE IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT UNIT

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE GENERAL STATUS AND OPERATION OF THE CONVENTION
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At the 10MSP, the States Parties agreed to and adopted the "Directive from the States Parties to the ISU" as annexed to the ISU Task Force report, ensuring that the ISU is directly responsible to the States Parties while it continues to be hosted by the GICHD. In doing so, the States Parties updated the ISU mandate and measures to ensure accountability. In terms of the mandate, the "Directive from the States Parties to the ISU", states that **"**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.

f) 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."

In terms of accountability, the "Directive from the States Parties to the ISU" states that "the ISU shall, in support of the States Parties, (…):

g) 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, (and),

h) 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.

Other aspects of the ISU Task Force Report, which was endorsed by the States Parties, which concern accountability, include the following references:

> "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 Coordinating Committee and subsequently to each Meeting of the States Parties or Review Conferences for approval, (and),

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

We should recall that the 2011 work plan and budget for the ISU were prepared by the ISU and endorsed by the Coordinating Committee prior to the decisions taken by the 2010. Nevertheless, the objectives and activities, contained within this, which in their totality amount to the core work of the ISU, are entirely consistent with the mandate agreed to later at the 10MSP. This work plan contains a detailed list of tasks – again consistent with the ISU mandate that you, the States Parties, agreed to, including the following:

- Assist States Parties in maximising participation in the Convention's implementation processes
- Provide strategic direction to Co-Chairs
- Provide strategic direction to the Coordinator of the Sponsorship Programme
- Support States Parties in preparing transparency reports
- Lead seminars and provide training on understanding the Convention and its operations
- Support the President and individual States Parties in undertaking universalisation efforts
- Provide advice on applying, in other areas, the lessons learned from implementing the Convention
- Support the President-Designate and the 11MSP host country in their preparations
- Support States Parties in clarifying the nature and extent of Article 5 obligations.
- Support States Parties in preparing Article 5 extension requests.
- Support States Parties in achieving and declaring completion of Article 5 implementation.
- Support the President and the other States Parties mandated to analyse requests
- Acquire expert mine clearance, legal and diplomatic advice at the request of the analysing group
- Acquire working translations of requests submitted
- Make requests and other relevant documentation readily available
- Support States Parties in developing more concrete victim assistance objectives, support those with good victim assistance objectives in developing good plans, support those with those good plans in advancing implementation of these plans, and, support those with plans in development monitoring mechanisms.
- Support States Parties with the responsibility for significant numbers of survivors which have engaged little to date in achieving a higher level of engagement.
- Continue to serve as the authoritative source of information on the Convention
- Maintain the Convention's Documentation Centre
- Maximise opportunities presented by implementation and universalisation achievements
- Deliver information in a professional manner about the Convention through publications
- Deliver information in a professional manner about the Convention by maintaining websites
- Deepen collaboration with actors that share the States Parties' aims

How has this plan been realized to date in 2011? Let me share with you some highlights of our activities this year:

The ISU made its services available regarding "advice and technical support to States Parties on the implementation of (Article 5) (…) of the Convention" widely known to the States Parties with pending Article 5 deadlines, with a view that all that need to submit high quality requests by 31 March 2012.

As noted in the final documents agreed to by the States Parties, the ISU has pioneered a methodology for assisting States Parties in preparing Article 5 extension requests. This involves taking steps to ensure that approximately one year before the date when a submission is expected work begins on it. Subject to the needs and desires of individual State Parties, this may involve advising authorities in capital.

To date in 2011, our mine action implementation specialist, Juan Carlos Ruan, carried out an extension request advisory mission to Chile and supported, in the USA, a workshop intended to assist Angola in the preparation of its request. Discussions are ongoing regarding providing in-country assistance to Afghanistan. I would note that the ISU's efforts to assist these States Parties is consistent with both the 10MSP mandate to "provide advice and technical support to States Parties on the implementation (…) of the Convention" and the 7MSP decision which sees that "requesting States Parties are encouraged, as necessary, to seek assistance from the ISU in the preparation of their requests".

Consistent with both the 10MSP mandate to "prepare, support and carry out follow-up activities from the Article 5 Extension Request Analysing Group" as well as 7MSP decisions which established the analysis process, the ISU in 2011 has provided support to the States Parties mandated to analyse Article 5 extension requests. This has involved organizing a one-day training for the analysing group to increase the capacity of the individuals involved to carry out their tasks. In addition, the ISU supported the pre-analysis efforts of the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, assisted in organizing meetings of the analysing group as a whole, obtained working translations of requests, acquired expertise as requested, served as a liaison between requesting States and the analysing group, transmitted communications between requesting States Parties and the President and analyzing group, and made requests available on the Convention's website.

Also as concerns "advice and technical support to States Parties on the implementation of (Article 5) (…) of the Convention", at the request of Nigeria, the ISU carried out a mission to Abuja in April to advise Nigeria on understanding and declaring completion of Article 5 obligations.

Consistent with the 10SMP mandate to "provide advice and technical support to States Parties on the implementation (…) of the Convention" and a core activity of the ISU going back to 2005, as noted in the final documents of the Second Review Conference, the ISU continued to provide advice and technical support to States Parties on applying the victim assistance understandings agreed by at the First And Second Review Conference. In doing so, we continued to respond to individual States Parties needs and acted, as is noted in the agreed mandate, to "carry out follow-up activities" from formal meetings under the Convention.

With the position of victim assistance specialist remaining unstaffed at the moment, we have had to scale back our activities in this regard, but they are continuing. We were pleased, for instance, to respond to the request made by Burundi earlier this year to support an inter-ministerial effort to develop a national action plan on disability that incorporates an appropriate response to needs of landmine survivors. We have been in discussions this week to carry out up to three other in-country advisory visits this year in response to the requests of individual States Parties that wish to make use of this aspect of our core offerings.

Also as concerns victim assistance, the ISU continues to make itself available to those who wish to seek greater understanding of what it is that you, the States Parties, have agreed to as concerns this matter. In response to demand, we have increased the amount of time that one staff position, which filled by Ms. Paramdeep Mtharu, is dedicated to responding to inquiries regarding victim assistance. Our ability to disseminate information and knowledge on victim assistance has been enhanced

through the development of the publication entitled *Assisting landmine and other ERW survivors in the context of disarmament, disability and development*. This publication, which was made possible through enhanced funding provided by Australia and which was launched by Australia on Wednesday, along with accompanying training materials, will enable the ISU to enhance our ability to meet the needs of the States Parties.

In addition as concerns victim assistance, we were pleased to serve as an expert resource at a NATO Partnership for Peace training in April, at a regional workshop organized by Handicap International in May in Tajikistan, and, at a regional workshop convened by RACIAC near Zagreb where we were asked to share lessons learned from the AP Mine Ban Convention on victim assistance for possible applicability for the Convention on Cluster Munitions. We remain available to support similar events.

In terms of other activities, a significant effort has been undertaken for some time in support of Cambodia as it prepares to host and preside over the 11MSP. The ISU has twice hosted Cambodian delegations – in March and May – for detailed discussions on preparations and in April the ISU carried out a mission to Siem Reap to continue these discussions and to support a national preparatory event. We have also been providing ongoing advice on communications aspects related to the 11MSP and are thankful that we have a skilled volunteer in Ms. Laila Rodriguez who has offered tremendous support on communications matters.

Regarding the mandate "provide advice and technical support to States Parties (…) on universalization", we have supported the activities of both the President and Special Envoy, with costs associated with these efforts covered thanks to enhanced support provided by Norway. The ISU has also provided information to States not parties, both to inform their accession processes and to assist in their participation in the work of the Convention.

Regarding the mandate to "prepare, support and carry out follow-up activities from formal and informal meetings under the Convention including (…) the Coordinating Committee", the ISU organized a day-long retreat for the Coordinating Committee in February and supported three other meetings of the Coordinating Committee. In addition, the ISU assisted the Co-Chairs in dozens of small group meetings to help them in elaborating strategies for the year and in preparing the Intersessional Work Programme.

We provided support in particular to the President, who also serves as the Chair of the Standing Committee on Resources Cooperation and Assistance, in assisting in organizing an international symposium on cooperation and assistance as concerns victim assistance, which took place in Tirana from 30 May to 1 June.

As concerns the mandate to "liaise and coordinate, as appropriate, with relevant international organizations that participate in the work of the Convention", the ISU has both sought to maintain good working relations with the ICBL, ICRC and elements of the UN system that normally participate in the work of the Convention as well as to deepen relations with other organizations. We have sought, for instance, to ensure that NGOs with a disability focus – such as the International Disability Alliance and International Disability and Development Consortium – and international organizations such the UN Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the World Health Organization know that their mandates and missions, and, the understandings on victim assistance adopted by the States Parties, coincide. We are pleased that are efforts are paying off in terms of these organizations' contributions to the Convention.

As concerns the mandate to facilitate and promote communication about the Convention, the ISU participated in seminars for Geneva-based diplomats which were organized by the Geneva Forum

and the GICHD, issued press releases on behalf of the President, continued to maintain and enhance the Convention's website, and made itself available to student groups and others that wish to learn about the Convention and its implementation processes. The ISU receives regular visits from some institutions with which the ISU has developed partnerships which include the ISU hosting interns. We were pleased earlier this month to have received two highly skilled students, Lindsey O'Keefe and Diana Zalaquett, who are currently supporting the ISU in internship capacities.

Also as concerns communications, the ISU sought to respond to the Task Force recommendation, endorsed as was the case with the rest of the Task Force Report, which states that "in order to reinforce the identity and visibility of the Convention, the ISU will be identified through a distinct profile that emphasizes its role as supporting entity for the Convention". We did so initially by acquiring a distinct email address and business card for ISU staff. My hope would be to proceed with a comprehensive approach to ISU design, taking into account the approximately 20 communications products that may be produced by the ISU. In this regard, discussions with the GICHD Director and the Coordinating Committee on next steps are ongoing.

One final aspect of our activities that I wish to mention concerns the processes regarding an amended agreement with the GICHD and investigating different funding models. While it certainly is within the mandate that the ISU shall "prepare, support and carry-out follow-up activities" from formal meetings of the Convention, it was not foreseen that the ISU would be called upon as extensively as it has been to provide information in support of these processes, to make arrangements for meetings, to cover the costs of these meetings, to provide a venue for and assist in organizing President's consultations and to distribute documents to the States Parties. This has been a significant drain on the ISU's resources in 2011 and has at times created challenges as concerns being able to remain focused on supporting the core work of the Convention.

In terms of finances, on 7 January, the President wrote to all States Parties to recall that "it remains (the States Parties') collective responsibility in 2011 to fund the ISU's core work plan through the existing funding model." Our work plan in 2011, not including the costs associated with returning to full staffing, amounts to CHF 1,050,000. If we were to return to full staffing, an additional CHF 150,000 would be required, bringing this total up to CHF 1.2 million.

To date, the following States Parties have heeded the President's call to contribute to the ISU core work plan: Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Cyprus, Estonia, Mozambique, Norway and Turkey. Together these States Parties have contributed approximately CHF 190,000. In addition, agreements are in place with Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Germany and Italy, which should result in a total of approximately CHF 370,000 flowing to the ISU. When funds received are combined with those carried over from 2010 along with those expected through signed agreements, approximately CHF 700,000 of the CHF 1.2 million required to fully fund our work plan have been secured meaning that approximately CHF 500,000 are still required.

In closing, I would like to reiterate that it is a great honour for me and my staff to serve the States Parties and to provide support to you as you pursue your mission of an end, for all time for all people, to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines.

I am committed to continuing to be responsive to you. Given the decisions of the 10MSP, I have sought to consult with as many delegations as possible to gain a better sense of what your expectations are given the 10MSP decisions. I will continue to do so throughout the year.

The message I have received so far is that what is expected of the ISU is more of the same.

I am particularly interested in what you expect of me in terms of the content and form of the work plan and budget I am expected to submit to you for adoption at the 11MSP.

On this, the message I am receiving is that work plan and budget presented for 2011 satisfies the States Parties and provides a high degree of specificity and transparency. However, if others have views, please make them known to me.

Finally let me stress that the principles that are key to me in directing the work of the ISU are as follows.

- My staff and I understand that the States Parties ultimately are responsible for Convention implementation and operations, with the ISU's role to support the States Parties.

- As the ISU works in support of the States Parties, we see the world through their eyes and, when we communicate about the Convention, we communicate what you have reported and the understanding that collectively you have adopted.

- I understand that time is the ISU's most valuable resource and as such all efforts will be made to ensure that staff time is fully programmed in an efficient manner and with time prioritized according to States Parties' priorities.

- In carrying out its work, we will adhere to good practice as concerns gender and disability, we will seek to constantly improve and become more efficient and, to the extent resources are made available, we will have professional officers available to support the States Parties at least in English, French and Spanish. In this regard, with Sophie Delfolie on maternity leave, we have acquired another francophone – Bérénice Schramm – to fill in on a temporary basis.

- And, we have a strong appreciation for the culture of partnership and collaboration between States Parties and non-governmental / international organizations, and we will work closely with those actors who support the States Parties' aims.

Thank you.

ISU Financing 2011
(As of 20 June 2011)

Carry-over from 2010	CHF141'944
Contributions received 2011	
Albania	CHF1'736
Algeria	CHF3'876
Argentina	CHF5'013
Cyprus	CHF3'200
Estonia	CHF1'248
Mozambique	CHF4'920
Norway	CHF166'583
Turkey	CHF3'768
Total contributions received 2011	CHF190'344
Contribution agreements in place 2011	
Australia	CHF169'250
Belgium	CHF64'710
Denmark	CHF52'113
Germany	CHF19'432
Italy	CHF66'059
	CHF371'564
2011 plending plan + funds required to return to full staffing	CHF1'200'000
Contributions received / agreements in place / carry-over	CHF703'852
Amount still required to fund 2011 budget & return to full staffing	**CHF496'148**