
Concept Note on the financial situation of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU)

- **Objective:** make proposals to secure appropriate funding.
- **Background:** analysis of the financial situation of the ISU

In September 2001 the States Parties mandated the GICHD to establish an Implementation Support Unit (ISU), funded on a voluntary basis by the States Parties. The President of the 3MSP and the Director of the GICHD subsequently signed an agreement on the implementation support for the Convention, which was amended in 2011 following a comprehensive evaluation of the ISU. The GICHD provides infrastructure, administrative and other support for the operations of the ISU. The level of support is determined through consultations between the Director of the ISU, the Director of the GICHD and the President of the States Parties.

The ISU exists to support the States Parties, in particular by doing the following:

- *Providing support to all States Parties through support to the Convention's implementation machinery and office holders,*
- *Providing support to individual States Parties, including by providing advice and technical support on implementation and universalisation,*
- *Communicating and providing information about the Convention, including towards States not Parties and the public, and communicate the decisions and outcomes of the Convention's meetings,*
- *Keeping records of formal and informal meetings under the Convention, and*
- *Liaising, and coordinating as appropriate, with relevant international organisations that participate in the work of the Convention.*

1. The ISU is widely appreciated by States Parties for contributing to the Convention's implementation process.
2. The States Parties approve the ISU's work plan and budget at every annual meeting. It is up to the States Parties to ensure, in a timely manner, that the ISU is sufficiently funded in order for the ISU to implement the decision of States Parties.¹
3. Greater political will to support the ISU requires addressing the current challenges in broadening the number of States Parties making contributions, increasing the total sum of contributions, and having predictability in the receipt of such contributions. The ISU's work plan will need to meet the expectations of States Parties of the implementation support to be provided by the ISU, while remaining aligned with the financial resources that are provided by States Parties.
4. To ensure the sufficient and timely financing of the ISU, more States Parties need to take ownership and compromise in supporting the ISU. Today, 31 States Parties are in implementation of article 5.

¹ The administrative costs of the ISU are covered by the GICHD in-kind contribution. The operational budget is covered by States Parties contributions, and could usefully be divided between core activities (funded through a core budget and project-based activities funded by separate project's agreements).

5. Thus, practical measures are required to address the ISU's finances for 2015, to improve the situation for 2016, and to project longer term options for the ISU's continued operation.

Today, of the 162 States Parties of the Convention, 19 have either supported the ISU's 2015 work plan or have provided written confirmation that funds are forthcoming: **Algeria, Australia, Bulgaria, Chile, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Jordan, Mexico, Mozambique, Serbia, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey and the United Kingdom.**

Considerations for 2015:

- In Maputo, the States Parties approved a Work Plan for the ISU to support them in implementing the Maputo outcomes. The budget approved by States Parties for this support in 2015 was valued at CHF 898,077.
- To avoid a deficit in 2015, the ISU Director has reduced the activities of the ISU, which has significantly reduced the ISU's capacity to deliver fully on the workplan adopted by States Parties, particularly in the area of supporting States Parties' Maputo victim assistance commitments.²
- The ISU would require at this point approximately CHF 650,000 in 2015 to continue operating at a reduced level, and approximately CHF 750,000 to return to previous levels of support, as approved by States Parties.
- **To date, approximately CHF 450,000 has been pledged or provided for 2015, of which CHF 128,262 has been received as at 19 June 2015.**

Recommendations:

- **Beginning immediately, the President and ISU should vigorously lead resource mobilisation, starting with an appeal to states who have not yet made a pledge.** To that end, he should seek to mobilize, including by means of bilateral or regional engagement, the necessary resources to cover the funding gap of it is calculated that the ISU faces with regard to the implementation of its work plan in 2015.
- The President and the ISU should call upon an informal group of States as regional champions to assist in resource mobilisation efforts for 2015 – 2016.
- Each State Party, which has not already committed to contribute to the ISU, should notify the ISU, by 15 July 2015, of whether it intends to contribute to the ISU in 2015, and if so, provide information on the timing and the known or estimated amount of the contribution.
- Contributions in 2015 obtained by this effort must ensure that 2015 does not end with a deficit. Thus, continued uncertainty will have serious consequences on the ISU's ability to continue operation in 2015.
- In December, the President and the ISU report, clearly and precisely, to the States Parties the financial situation of the ISU and impact of this on the services that had been provided by the ISU in 2015.
- Approve a realistic work plan for 2016, based on the amount obtained in 2015 to finance the ISU.

² Staff Reduction.

Considerations for 2016:

Recommendations:

- The President should continue to vigorously lead resource mobilisation, including continuing the measures recommended for 2015 and 2016
- **A four-year work plan and budget, beginning in 2016, should be developed of the ISU in consultation of the President and Committee Members which sets out the activities required to meet the objectives of the Maputo Plan of Action (2014-2019). Activities should be prioritized in order to allow the ISU the flexibility to, in consultation with the Presidency and Committee Members, scale the ISU's work up or down, or defer activities to a later date, as required on the basis of financial contributions received from States Parties throughout a given year.** This would allow States Parties to reconcile their expectations of the support to be provided by the ISU, and encourage increased political buy-in and support for the funding of the ISU.
- The President will continue to draw on a small group of friends, comprising Chile as the incoming President, as well as Mozambique and Australia, between July and September to develop, in cooperation with the ISU Director, a four-year work plan for the ISU. The President, the group of friends and ISU Director will informally consult with delegations, including Committee members to ensure the work plan reflects the support they may need and draws upon their experience in the first year of implementation of the Maputo Action Plan. Regional consultations could also be organized.
- The draft four-year workplan and budget should be distributed to States Parties by the end of September to provide States Parties with sufficient time to consider its content ahead of a decision being taken at the upcoming Meeting of States Parties in December 2015.
- In mid- to late-October 2015, the incoming Presidency should convene an informal meeting to invite States Parties to (a) comment on the draft four-year work plan and budget and (b) announce pledges or intentions to contribute to the ISU in 2016.

Longer-term considerations:

- The 14 MSP President should continue to vigorously lead resource mobilisation, including continuing the measures recommended for 2015.
- The 15MSP President should present to the 15MSP an evaluation of the extent to which best efforts to ensure sustainable and predictable ISU financing were successful in 2016.

Additional measures should also be considered in order to encourage stable and predictable financing of the ISU:

- The President should encourage the State Parties to provide multi-year contributions, where possible.
- Each Presidency should monitor the implementation of the four-year workplan and budget during the year in which they preside over the Convention, to ensure the work plan continues to meet the needs of States Parties, and recommend to States Parties any adjustments if necessary.
- Pledging event should be convened one time in the year (preferably in beginning of March), taking advantage of the high-level segment of the Human Rights Council and the Conference on Disarmament.