

ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION

Standing Committee on General Status and Operation of the Convention

IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT UNIT: NEW AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE STATES PARTIES AND THE GICHD

Australian Statement

Statement delivered by Mr Philip Kimpton, First Secretary, Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Geneva

20 June 2011

We thank the President for his hard work in preparing a new draft Agreement between the States Parties and the GICHD on implementation support. We appreciate the opportunity the President provided to comment on the draft and meet in an informal format in May.

Overall, Australia was satisfied that the President's new draft Agreement meets the mandate given to him by the Tenth Meeting of States Parties. It provides enhanced independence for the ISU and confirms the steps the ISU has already taken to establish a more individual identity. It provides for greater oversight of the ISU by the States Parties and establishes more clearly than ever before a line of responsibility from the ISU to States Parties. There are new roles for the President – and through him/her, the States Parties – in managing the Agreement, in recruitment of the ISU Director and in receiving reports from the ISU.

The reasons for establishing the ISU within the GICHD several years ago still exist. It is an informal, efficient and flexible implementation support mechanism. It is not an international secretariat, with consequences for bureaucracy and politics that it could involve. In devising a new Agreement between States Parties and the GICHD, we do not wish to lose the high quality services provided by the ISU. This does not impinge on the legal status of the Convention.

Contrary to the claims of one delegation, it was several of the States which are the largest and most consistent financial supporters of the ISU and represented on the Council of Foundation of the GICHD that sought changes to the ISU in 2010. These States particularly wanted to see an increased ownership over the ISU by all States Parties, allow the Meeting of States Parties a role in approving the ISU's budget and work plan, and make the ISU responsible to States Parties.

Australia could support the President's draft Agreement. We are of course open to exploring other formulations with delegations this week in order to bring this matter to an early finalisation.