

Draft 18 June 2011

**Intersessional Meeting of the Standing Committees of the
Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production
and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction**

Statement held by

**Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the
Convention**

**Implementation Support Unit: agreement between the State Parties
and the GICHD**

Geneva, 20 June 2011

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Mr. Co-Chair

congratulate you and the other co-chairs of this standing committee for the assumptions of your tasks

We would particularly like to thank through you, our President, for his tireless efforts to faithfully implement the decisions of the 10MSP in regard to the Implementation Support Unit (ISU).

thanks him for the comprehensive oral report which reflects your efforts as well as the work achieved so far. and we are grateful for your work which represents, as you said, a huge leap forward.

thank to his excellency the Algerian ambassador for his kind words to our delegation.

This enormous progress achieved within this Convention and the very implementation architecture with the Implementation Support Unit hosted by the GICHD cannot be called but a true success story. It is thus somewhat paradoxical that so much effort has gone into the evaluation of this successful setup rather than into the actual implementation of the vision for a world free of mines...

We would like to recall that last year's evaluation confirmed that the State Parties are very satisfied with the professional and efficient support of the ISU as well as of the services the GICHD lends to the ISU and the intersessional process. The evaluation has also made clear that States stand to the decisions taken at earlier MSPs and RevCons and that they want to keep a reliable and professional ISU to implement these decisions.

Accordingly, the 10MSP confirmed the institutional set-up with the ISU hosted by the GICHD. This was an important decision which allows the continuation of a successful model. Any attempt to roll back these decisions while implementing the 10MSPs would be, in our view, highly problematic.

The 10MSP has also called the President to negotiate on behalf of the State Parties an amended agreement and to submit it for approval.

Switzerland was happy to see that the revised draft amended agreement had found broad support in the Open Ended Working Group on the agreement. States Parties seemed to be happy that the draft agreement contains all the elements outlined by the 10 MSP, including providing more clarity on the respective roles and responsibilities of the ISU, the GICHD, the President, the Co-chairs and the State Parties.

It should now be possible to make the last changes, in a spirit of flexibility, and move ahead quickly so we can turn our attention fully to the numerous implementation challenges.

our delegation has a few ideas which we would like to discuss in detail with you and with the other concerned parties in the course of this week.

our delegation certainly ready to discuss this further and to work with others to to lay thereby the foundation for the continuation of a successful model, which is in the interest of us all.

Thank you.