



Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

Meetings of the Standing Committees 21-25 May 2012

ISU Financing

Geneva, 22 May 2012

Co-Chairs,

Excellencies,

Colleagues,

Our delegation did not take the floor under the previous agenda item when the Director of the ISU introduced his report on the activities and finances of the Unit. But we would want to thank him for the comprehensive and accurate reporting, and we would like to thank him and the entire ISU Team for the great work they are doing.

With regard to the financing of the ISU, Switzerland would like to make the following remarks:

Switzerland would like to recall that at the 11th Meeting of States Parties, the State Parties have shown their willingness to continue to strengthen the implementation architecture of this Convention. In particular, there was a broad consensus that:

- the results of the open-ended working group on the ISU financial model should be preserved;
- that the current system of voluntary contributions should be further improved;
- and that States Parties should be encouraged to ensure sufficient funding for the ISU.

The work of the ISU in our view corresponds clearly to the demands of the State Parties. There is a very high satisfaction with the quality of the services provided by the ISU. Against the background of the excellent performance of the ISU, we are concerned that, this year again, we are facing a funding shortage of over 397'000 Swiss Francs.

Switzerland will remain a key supporter of the ISU and the GICHD, both relying on highly skilled and competent staff and management. In addition to in-kind contributions of several hundred thousand Swiss Francs, Switzerland has made a pledge for a voluntary financial contribution for this year.

We would like to commend all the States Parties, which have already made contributions, especially affected states and states from the global South. The ISU has for instance received funds from Albania, Algeria or Cambodia, and we believe this is a trend that should continue.

At the same time, we would like to call on all States Parties in a position to do so, particularly States who have not made contributions recently, to consider supporting the ISU. This would respond to repeated calls by the Presidency to strengthen this important tool for the implementation of the convention.

As one of the main donors of the ISU (and of the GICHD) we stand ready to continue to support the presidency in this matter and to discuss creative approaches to improve the current system of voluntary contributions.

We are also convinced that a discussion regarding a more sustainable, predictable and equitable model for the financing of the ISU should be continued at an appropriate time.

Thank you.