

Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention
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Draft remarks by Kerry Brinkert
Manager
Implementation Support Unit

-- Check against delivery --

It is a privilege to have been appointed to lead the unit that is designed to assist you in your important task – the implementation and operation of the Convention.

In the short period that has passed since I assumed my duties, many States Parties already have reaffirmed to me the need for the value-added service that can be provided by the Implementation Support Unit. I use this term “value-added” intentionally. As was noted in the documents of the Third Meeting of the States Parties, the Implementation Support Unit should not replace the efforts of States Parties but rather assist and enhance “the direct responsibility and involvement (of States Parties) in the management and direction of the implementation process.”

That said, there is no shortage of areas in which to provide this value-added assistance – assistance which is provided in a manner consistent with the duties outlined in the President’s Paper on the Establishment of an Implementation Support Unit. These duties include the following:

- Providing support to the Coordinating Committee and undertaking follow-up as directed;
- Providing support across all facets of the President’s duties;
- Providing advice, support and assistance to the Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs in their important work in facilitating the matters pertaining to the Intersessional Programme;
- Ensuring timely communications about the implementation process to all relevant actors, and, serving as a one-stop location for information about this process;
- Serving as a liaison with actors central to the implementation process, including the ICBL, ICRC and the United Nations; and,
- Establishing and maintaining a documentation and resource facility on the Convention, its establishment and implementation.

In terms of taking this mandate from being words on paper and translating them into action, I look to you – the States Parties to the Convention. The Implementation Support Unit was established by you to serve you. And therefore, please let me assure you that the door is always open to you to provide me with your advice and guidance on how the Unit can best meet your needs in a manner consistent with the Unit’s mandate.

Thank you.