

Statement by Norway on issues concerning IWP.
01.02.2002

Norway has contributed approximately CHF 100 000 to the implementation support unit. We are happy to note that the unit now is established and operational, under professional management. We are equally happy to register that the ISU this year has received more funds than budgeted. Let's hope that this trend will continue. For its part, Norway is willing to continue contributing to the ISU also in the years to come.

I also would like to address myself to the Sponsorship Programme. The Sponsorship programme has been operative for almost two years. It has proven to be very successful and popular serving its purpose. The programme has enabled the participation of the mine affected development countries at the meeting of States Parties and intersessional meetings.

Norway contributed with an initial contribution of USD 100 000. Since the setting up of the programme, we welcome the increasing number of donors. But we also notice that the number of beneficiaries is growing rapidly.

The Sponsorship Programme is a success. But additional resources are needed. Norway will give a new contribution to the programme this year with CHF 100 000.