

IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT UNIT UPDATE KERRY BRINKERT

Co-Chairs:

Please allow me to add to the remarks made by the GICHD Director to thank States Parties for the many kind words directed to the ISU and individual staff members.

It am grateful that you appreciate our efforts.

Let me say, though, from the privileged place we occupy as your humble servants, we see first hand your incredible efforts and have a great deal of appreciation for them.

We have been honoured, for instance, to have supported and advised several States Parties in the preparation of their Article 5 extension requests. We have seen the many hours over many months that individuals such as Wilyam Lucar of Peru, or General Tumrongsak of Thailand, or Bolivar Torres of Ecuador have invested into preparing what amounts to in many cases the most comprehensive of overview of implementation that has ever been prepared by their States.

And it has been extremely rewarding, and perhaps for Sheree Bailey extremely exhausting, to support the significant advances made by health, rehabilitation, social services and disability experts in their inter-ministerial processes.

Others may criticize your efforts for never being enough and certainly we can all never stop working to meet the needs and guarantee the rights of all.

However you – the health, rehabilitation, social services and disability experts participating in this process – are making a significant difference, you have generated a wealth of information and you have done so often working in extremely difficult circumstances with few resources. Thank you for your efforts.

In terms of this week's meetings, I wish to also thank the Albanian Mine Action Executive for having lent Juliana Buzi to us this week as well as thank Juliana for volunteering her time with us. Similarly, my thanks goes to Ban Yaseen who has been lent to us by the operations unit of the GICHD.

Finally, let me remark that the ISU could not provide the support that it does without an extremely dedicated and competent staff. I wish to publicly acknowledge the efforts of those who work under my supervision and thank them for their service.

Thank you.