



Updated on the Implementation Support Unit

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Director of the GICHD**

Standing Committee on the General Status and Operations of the Convention

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Dear friends:

It is my pleasure to provide you with an update of the operations of the Implementation Support Unit.

The most significant matter to report is that the ISU has acquired a remarkable additional workload since the 8MSP.

That is, the ISU has provided its traditional support to the President, the Co-Chairs, the Contact Group Coordinators and the Coordinator of the Sponsorship Program.

And it has continued to provide professional advice and support to States Parties regarding implementation matters.

However, the ISU has experienced a massive amount of additional work in supporting the States Parties in their process of preparing and analyzing requests submitted under Article 5 of the Convention.

On the one hand, I am relieved to see that the workload as it relates to supporting this process should decrease in 2009 as there are few States Parties with 2010 deadlines likely to need to request an extension next year.

On the other hand, with the Second Review Conference near on the horizon, it is likely that a high level of service will be required next year and beyond. This will have to be taken into account in determining future staffing needs of the unit.

With respect to the Second Review Conference, I am pleased to see the commitment made by the EU through their Joint Action to support the informal preparations of the Review Conference, through regional conferences and technical advisory visits.

And I am equally pleased that the EU has charged the Implementation Support Unit with implementing the Joint Action on behalf of the European Union.

The work of the ISU to assist relevant States Parties with their inter-ministerial victim assistance processes continues to be a key area of the ISU's work, thanks to project funding provided by a group of "friends of victim assistance."

Having entered the work of the Convention at the Nairobi Summit, I would observe that it is quite remarkable how far victim assistance in the context of the Convention has evolved since 2004. I am very pleased with the role the ISU can play in that context, and hope that it will continue receiving strong support from donors.

Finally, with respect to financial matters, I will recall that when the States Parties took the decision to establish the Implementation Support Unit, they agreed to ensure the necessary resources for the operations of the Unit.

In this regard, I am pleased to report that, in 2007, the following 19 States Parties made financial contributions to the ISU Voluntary Trust Fund:

- Albania
- Australia
- Austria
- Belgium
- Canada
- Chile
- the Czech Republic
- Estonia
- Germany
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Lithuania
- Malta
- Norway
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden, and,
- Turkey

Pursuant to the decisions of the 7MSP, five of these States Parties – Australia, the Czech Republic, Italy, Lithuania and Norway – made earmarked contributions in support of the Article 5 extensions process.

Switzerland has continued supporting the ISU through its financial contribution to the GICHD.

An update on those States Parties that have made contributions in 2008 will be provided at the 9MSP.

Thank you.