



**Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention
16 May 2003**

**Update on the Implementation Support Unit
by Ambassador Martin Dahinden
Director of the GICHD**

Mr. President,
Dear friends and colleagues,

It has been only three months since the last time I provided you with an update, therefore I will be brief in my reporting.

It has been a pleasure to have heard from so many of you the expression of satisfaction with the role that the ISU is playing in providing you with information necessary for you to carry out your responsibilities.

I believe the Implementation Support Unit is living up to the promise you had for it as a mechanism to provide you – the States Parties – with professional independent services in support of your responsibilities related to the general operation and implementation of the Convention.

I would note that during the current period, we have seen the ISU carry out its role in both a proactive – but also responsive – manner.

The ISU is certainly continuing to enhance steps on its own to ensure that you receive the information you need to participate as actively as you wish in the Intersessional Programme.

However, increasingly, you – the States Parties – are discovering that the ISU exists as information resource to respond to your inquiries about the Convention and the implementation process. I encourage you to continue to make use of the ISU in this regard.

One of the most important means made available by the ISU, for you to obtain information on the implementation process, is the Convention's Documentation Centre which has been established by the ISU in accordance with its mandate. You will find the Documentation Centre located on the third floor of this building in the offices of the Geneva Center.

This facility contains approximately 3,000 reports, statements, publications and other documents related to the Convention and I encourage you to make use of it. We have placed a background document on the Documentation Centre on the tables outside of this meeting room to further inform you about this resource.

With regard to the financing of the ISU, I would recall when you, the States Parties, agreed to the establishment of the Unit it was noted that the States Parties would take responsibility for assuring necessary financial resources were provided for the ISU's operations.

I am pleased to report that a growing number of States Parties have accepted this common responsibility, with 11 States Parties having provided financial contributions to the ISU Trust Fund since its establishment: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway and South Africa.

I am also pleased that we are close to finalizing a financing agreement with a 12th State Party. Discussions are also underway with three current donors regarding their desire to see that their financial support to the ISU becomes a regular rather than a one-time contribution.

Mr. President, dear colleagues,

I will conclude by saying that it remains a privilege to be able to be at the service of the States Parties and to be able to make a contribution to the implementation of the Convention.

I would like to give now – through you, Mr. President – the floor to Kerry Brinkert, the relentless Manager of the Implementation Support Unit.
