

Update on the activities of the Implementation Support Unit

Presented to the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention

**Ambassador Stephan Nellen
Director of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining**

12 May 2006

As in 2005, in 2006 the direction of the Implementation Support Unit is clear: to provide support to you, the States Parties, in applying the Nairobi Action Plan and otherwise assisting you in your work to implement in the Convention.

In this regard, please allow me to highlight some specific efforts:

First: The ISU provided the President, the Co-Chairs and Contact Group Coordinators with thematic food-for-thought to pursue the priorities identified by the Sixth Meeting of States Parties.

This helped enable the Coordinating Committee to hold a successful day-long retreat in January at which time the general framework for intersessional work in 2006 was elaborated.

Second: The ISU offered the Coordinating Committee a methodology for work planning for 2006 which featured the establishment of objectives to be achieved between the Meetings of the States Parties in the context of the second of five years of applying the Nairobi Action Plan.

With the support of the ISU, most Co-Chairs applied this methodology and proceeded with targeted actions to achieve their aims. Ongoing support will be provided to Co-Chairs throughout the summer.

Third: The ISU provided a comprehensive set of recommendations for the Coordinator of the Sponsorship Programme's Donors' Group.

These recommendations, which were largely accepted, saw close collaboration between the ISU and other parts of the GICHD in the related tasks of administering sponsorship – that is, enabling attendance, and, supporting effective substantive contributions – that is, enabling participation.

Fourth: The ISU has continued to enhance the Convention's Documentation Centre, which we are proud to house.

However, due to the high volume of documents collected, we currently face a back-log in cataloguing and making available these documents. We are expected to overcome this challenge later this year.

Fifth: The ISU continued to respond to requests from a wide range of States Parties for various pieces of advice and information on questions of implementation. Indeed, this aspect of the ISU's workload has steadily increased since the Unit's inception.

Our ongoing aim is to promptly and effectively respond to States Parties' requests for advice or information. Hence, we are monitoring our rate of responsiveness in order to ensure that we understand any deficiencies in meeting your needs on a timely basis.

Sixth: Taking into account that almost 30 percent of all States Parties are small States, the ISU has developed a *Small States Strategy* to help this particular subset of States Parties overcome various implementation and participation challenges.

These are just some highlights of the Unit's work and the Manager of the ISU and I are always available to provide you with more information.

In terms of the fulfilment by the States Parties of their responsibilities to provide necessary funding for the operations of the ISU, since the Sixth Meeting of the States Parties, contributions to the ISU Trust Fund have been received from the following States Parties:

- Albania
- Belgium
- Burundi
- Cyprus
- Germany
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Lithuania
- Malaysia
- Malta
- Mexico
- the Philippines
- South Africa
- Slovenia, and
- Turkey.

In addition, project funding was received from Switzerland in its capacity as Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration. This has enabled the ISU to establish the temporary position of victim assistance specialist and hence provide *process support* to the inter-ministerial victim assistance efforts of relevant States Parties.

Finally, please allow me to thank you for your expressions of appreciation for and confidence in the implementation support provided by the GICHD through its ISU.