

INTERVENTION BY SOUTH AFRICA: ISU

Mr President,

Allow me to express my delegation's appreciation for the work done by the Implementation Support Unit in support of the implementation of the AP Mine-Ban Convention. We appreciate the efficient, professional and objective manner in which the ISU continues to fulfil its tasks and responsibilities.

We also wish to thank the ISU Task Force under the leadership of Ambassador Eckey for the manner in which they approached their mandate in evaluating the work of the ISU. The report compiled by the Independent Consultant, Ambassador Tim Caughly, in our view faithfully reflected the views of States Parties on the ISU's role. My delegation appreciates the opportunity to have contributed to the work of the Task Force.

In our view, the recommendations presented by the Task Force takes into account the broadly shared view on the need to ensure that the ISU remains an effective institution in the service of the States Parties to the AP Mine-Ban Convention.

We welcome the recommendations on the institutional framework, tasks and responsibilities and those related to the financing of the ISU. In this regard, we welcome in particular the recommendation that the ISU Director will present a work plan and budget for consideration and approval by the States Parties, which will ensure that the work of the Unit continues to be guided by States Parties. We recognise that the issue of the financing of the Unit is a complicated matter that requires further consideration. The open-ended working group that will be established provides an opportunity for all States Parties to come up with options in an effort to find the best possible formula for the financing of the Unit in order to ensure predictable and assured funding. My delegation looks forward to participating in these discussions during the coming year.

Mr President,

We also wish to recognise and thank those States that have continued to support the work of the ISU through voluntary and in-kind contributions.

I thank you.