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Report on the Functioning of the Implementation Support Unit
September 2002 – September 2003

by

Ambassador Martin Dahinden, Director of the Geneva International Centre for
Humanitarian Demining

Speaking notes

Mr. Vice-President,
distinguished delegates,

Two years ago - at the 3rd Meeting of States Parties in Managua - you mandated the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining to establish an Implementation Support Unit (ISU). At the same time the Director of the Geneva Centre was tasked to submit annually a report on the functioning of the ISU. This Report has been circulated to you in written form.

The ISU was designed to facilitate cooperation under the Ottawa Process. It should become a focal point for treaty related issues, and it should help to carry out activities in a more efficient way. At the same time, the ISU should help countries with few resources to play a full role in the process. The ISU should remain a small and flexible structure.

It is up to you to determine to what extent the ISU and its work have lived up to the expectations. I will limit myself to point out some main developments during the reporting period:

- An important role of the ISU was to assist persons with a function under the Convention. This was done extensively during the reporting period to the President, the Coordinating Committee, to Co-chairs and Co-rapporteurs, for Contact groups etc. The assistance included arrangements for meetings, distribution of documents, preparation of texts, inquiries, developing a web site on the 5MSP and more.
- The ISU increased its efforts to inform mine-affected States Parties, those in the process of destroying stockpiled mines, and those in a position to provide assistance to participate in and have their voices heard during the Intersessional Work Programme.
- States Parties, States not party, media and others have increasingly asked the ISU to provide timely and comprehensive information on the

Convention and its implementation. For this purpose our Web site was significantly enlarged. The Manager of the ISU also made presentations by invitation.

- The Geneva Centre continued to administer the Sponsorship Programme established by a group of States Parties to the Convention.
- According to the mandate – decided by you - the Documentation Centre of the Convention was established and became operational in early 2003. It makes accessible documentation on the Convention and its implementation. At present over 3000 reports, publications and other documents are available, with new material added regularly.

The number of staff in the ISU remained small consisting of the Manager, Kerry Brinkert, in an Implementation Support Officer, Sophie Delfolie, and an Administrative Assistant, Veronique Movilla. The ISU has access to the general infrastructure of the centre, particularly for web services, secretariat and logistics. Among those colleagues I would like to mention particularly is Catherine Borrero, the Conference Manager of the Geneva Centre, who also runs the sponsorship programme.

At the end of 2001 a special Voluntary Trust Fund was established to cover the running costs of the ISU. Budgets are elaborated in consultation with the Coordinating Committee on an annual basis. The financial statements are independently audited by Price Waterhouse Cooper and forwarded to the President, the Coordinating Committee and donors. The budget for 2003 was 451 000 Swiss Francs, which is about 300'000 Euro or US Dollars.

I would particularly like to thank to those who have contributed thus far to the Voluntary Trust Fund, namely Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, and Norway. Switzerland has contributed by funding the general infrastructure of the Centre available to the ISU.

I would like to thank all who have contributed, and encourage you - and indeed others - to further support the ISU.

Mr. Vice-President,
Distinguished delegates,

Let me conclude by giving thanks for the many kind words that have been addressed to the Geneva Centre and specifically to the Implementation Support Unit. They are a strong encouragement for us.

I would now like to give – through you Mr. President – the floor to Kerry Brinkert, the restless and devoted Manager of the ISU.

Thank you.