

FRIDAY 28 NOVEMBER

IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT, AGENDA ITEM 12.E.iv

STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE GICHD

Mr. President:

Since 2001, the GICHD has the privilege to host the Implementation Support Unit. The 2001 agreement between the States Parties and the GICHD on the functioning of the ISU indicates that the Director of the GICHD shall submit a written report on the functioning of the ISU covering the period between two Meetings of the States Parties.

It is my pleasure for the first time as GICHD Director to present this report to you. As a preliminary remark I would like to tell you that the GICHD is very glad to host the ISU. There is a fruitful symbiosis between the ISU on one side and the operational and administrative support divisions of the Centre on the other side.

My full report is contained in document number APLC/MSP.9/2008/WP.3. As this document has been distributed to you, I will briefly only highlight the following aspects:

- First: The past year has been a challenging one for the ISU.

In addition to providing its traditional service to the President, Co-Chairs and individual States Parties, the ISU has worked hard in advising States Parties on the preparation of Article 5 requests and servicing the needs of the analyzing group.

- Second: The ISU has continued to provide full service to the States Parties that have reported the responsibility for significant numbers of landmine survivors.

These States Parties have made tremendous strides since the First Review Conference and the ISU has supported them substantially in their efforts.

- Third: The ISU has remained responsive to States Parties with special needs, such as small States.

Next year is also shaping up to be a challenging year, but I am confident that the ISU is well prepared:

- The ISU has already taken steps to support the presumed presidency and host country of the Second Review Conference;
- The ISU has for a while been preparing to implement the European Union's Joint Action in support of the Convention; and,
- The ISU will of course again support the President, Co-Chairs and others in ensuring sound preparations for the Intersessional Work Programme.

With respect to financial aspects, I wish to thank the States Parties that have contributed to the ISU Trust Fund for their confidence in the work of the Implementation Support Unit. Since I submitted my written report, additional contributions have been received from the following States Parties: Ireland, Italy, Spain, and, for the first time, Qatar. As per today, contributions received amount to more than CHF 500'000, compared to a budget of about 950'000 CHF. About CHF 30'000 have been earmarked for the Article 5 extensions process.

Mr. President: As time is short, I will limit my introduction of my report to these points, but I would ask if you would permit the Director of the ISU to add a few remarks.