

INTERVENTION BY THE  
ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION  
IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT UNIT  
SECOND INTERNATIONAL PLEDGING CONFERENCE  
28 FEBRUARY 2017

Excellencies

Colleagues,

It is a great pleasure to have the opportunity to address you during this Second International Pledging Conference.

For those delegations we have not worked with in the past, my name is Juan Carlos Ruan and I have served as Director of your Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention ISU since June of last year.

I have the pleasure of working with a great team composed of Mrs. Sophie Delfolie, Implementation Support Specialist and Mr. Gregory Cathcart, Convention Implementation Officer.

Together we constitute your Implementation Support Unit which totals 2.6 full time equivalent positions.

Since our establishment in 2001 we have been housed within the Geneva international Centre for Humanitarian Demining from which, through a grant provided by Switzerland, we receive financial management, human resource and administrative support at no cost to the States Parties.

We are extremely grateful to Switzerland and for our great collaboration with the Centre including with Ambassador Toscano, its Director.

The ISU was established by the States Parties to, in part, provide support to the Convention's Officeholders, including the Presidency and the Convention's 4 Committees, in advancing the implementation of the Convention, as well as to provide technical support to States Parties in understanding and fulfilling their obligations under the Convention.

It is a real privilege for us to carry out this work.

We are only able to do so through the Voluntary Contributions of States Parties which the States Parties have made the commitment to providing the unit, most recently, in the Maputo Action Plan adopted at the Convention's 3<sup>rd</sup> Rev Con in 2014.

As many of you also know, two years ago we faced some significant financial challenges.

At the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties in December 2015 under the Presidency of Belgium, the States Parties took a number of measures which were highlighted in the *Decision on strengthening financial governance and Transparency within the ISU* in support of making the financing of the ISU more sustainable including by

- First, establishing a financial security buffer with the aim of ensuring that it contains an amount equivalent to one year of ISU expenditures related to core support to mitigate any shortfall in contributions.

This financial security buffer as established was to be constituted by surplus funding from contributions of States Parties that do not preclude such a use. As many of you will recall we received a head start in filling the financial security buffer with a generous contribution from Belgium of CHF 359'832.

- Second, the 14MSP adopted a four year work plan and budget for the ISU to offer the ISU more predictable and to encourage multi annual contributions
- And third, decision was developed in a manner that would to allow the ISU to take on activities related to enhanced support related to providing States Parties with victim assistance support and taking on extra budgetary tasks that do not appear in the budget should certain conditions be met.
- And of course, the establishment of this pledging conference to offer us predictability concerning contributions to our annual work plan.

The Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties also adopted the ISU's 2016 work plan and budget which required a total of **CHF 540 613**.

The Pledging Conference held in March 2016 under the leadership of the Chilean President provided the ISU with a high level of predictability concerning contributions it would receive in 2016.

Many of you will recall that last year was a transition year for the ISU and some savings were made in terms of staff costs. In 2016 the ISU expenditures totaled **CHF 458'648**.

In 2016 the ISU received contributions from 25 States Parties totaling CHF **694,767**.

In addition to this, the financial security buffer received contribution from an additional two States Parties bringing the total in the financial security buffer to CHF **381'897**.

This information will be transmitted to you in due course within the ISU's final report.

Over the course of 2016 the ISU has reached out to States Parties to request information regarding any existing regulation which would prevent their contributions from being used for the financial security buffer, we were grateful with the overwhelming response from States that has allowed us to implement the Decisions of the 14mSP.

In short, while not to pre-empt the decision of the States Parties on how to apportion the surplus, we have been able to secure sufficient funding, which in accordance with the decision of the 14MSP will be provisionally placed in the financial security buffer, to fill the financial security buffer established by the States Parties 2 years ahead of the expected timeframe to do so.

We take this opportunity to thank our contributors that helped us achieve this important milestone.

Filling the financial security buffer in line with the decision of the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties is key to the ISU, as it unlocks the potential of the in terms of “enhanced support”. The other critical aspect is ensuring that we have earmarked resources for this prior to our adoption of the budget at the end of the year.

In order for the ISU to provide comprehensive implementation support to States Parties, the engagement of a victim assistance specialist is critical.

We cannot stress the importance of the commitments we have made to mine victims.

Ensuring that victims of mines receive the necessary consideration and sustainable support is an important commitment of our Convention.

At the 15MSP, in Santiago, Chile, the States Parties adopted the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention’s 2017 work plan and budget which includes an overview of the activities the ISU aims to achieve over the course of 2017. We have provided a copy of this workplan and budget which totals CHF **515,429**.

This year again, we are appealing to you to support the work of the ISU in accordance with the activities described in our work plan.

Sophie will speak to you more in detail on our activities for 2017.

As you can see from the Work Plan 86% of this amount equates to salary costs with the rest relating to activity costs including communications, support to States Parties through the extension request process.

The enhanced support which I have talked about earlier would require an addition CHF 150,000 – 200’000

Our doors are always open at the ISU should delegations need any additional information from the ISU.

Voluntary contributions from States Parties are essential to carrying out our tasks, big and small contributions are all significant and very welcome.

We also welcome any information concerning possible contributions. This provides us with the predictability we need to forge ahead confidently.

We would like to thank States Parties in advance for their important contribution to the ISU as well as to the work of all the institutions and organizations that play a part in supporting the implementation of this historic Convention, including national authorities and organizations such as the HALO Trust, NPA, MAG, the GICHD and the UN.

As we continue to support the efforts of the Convention's machinery and States Parties implementing core obligations of the Convention, we look forward to working with all of you, contributing States, national authority, and members of civil society and hope that our contribution to the implementation of the Convention continues to be of value to all of you.