

Excellencies, dear colleagues, It is a real pleasure to be here with you today.

I will present briefly the main activities that are part of the ISU's work plan 2017 and then I will the floor back to Juan Carlos. You will have received amongst all the documents a copy of our work plan which was endorsed by the CC adopted at the 15MSP last year.

Before I go over our main activities, let me recall that the mandate of the ISU guides the work that we do and annual work plans are prepared on the basis of our mandate so that our activities can ultimately have an impact on the implementation of the Convention and that they can enhance the implementation of the Maputo Action Plan. This year will be no exception.

As you know the ISU is not very big but we have a wide range of responsibilities, the 2.6 staff are very committed to our work but we can only fulfil our mandate if we do it in cooperation with all the relevant actors that participate in the work of the Convention, many of which I have the pleasure to see here today.

The ISU supports:

1. the implementation support machinery and the Convention as a whole
2. and in addition we support individual States Parties in their efforts to implement the Convention.

[When it comes to the machinery, the ISU supports the Committees of the Convention, the current and incoming Presidencies, the Coordinating Committee, the Sponsorship Programme.]

Committees:

This year, 17 States Parties have taken on special responsibilities. They are the Chairs and members of the Convention's 4 Committees (do I need to quote their names).

In 2017, the ISU will support the Committees to organise meetings (up to 36 meetings), to prepare preliminary observations and conclusions on the implementation of areas of the Convention that are relevant for each Committee. The ISU will also support the Committees' special initiatives.

Coordinating Committee: the ISU will support the organisation of approximately 10 meetings of the Coordinating Committee and will also follow up on decisions of this Committee.

Presidencies:

In 2017, the ISU will work very closely with Austria which has been designated President and host country for the 16th Meeting of the States Parties to ensure a successful 16th meeting at the end of the year and support the President's mandate and priorities on stockpile destruction, universalization, and the mobilization of resources for the ISU and the Convention's Sponsorship Programme.

The ISU will also start providing support to the incoming, the President of the 17MSP, Afghanistan.

Support to meetings:

Another important part of the ISU's work in 2017 is to provide support to the Convention's meetings, both from the side of the substance and the organisation. The first one is the Pledging

Conference, the 2-day intersessional meetings in 8-9 June in Geneva and the 16th Meeting of the States Parties taking place in Vienna the week of 18 December (18-22).

Support for the sponsorship programme

As you know the Convention has a Sponsorship Programme and in 2017, the ISU will develop strategic plans for the Coordinator of this programme for both the intersessional meetings and the 16MSP.

Support and advice to individual States Parties:

In 2017, the ISU will provide advice and support to the States Parties that are implementing the **Article 5 mine clearance obligations**. More specifically the ISU will advise 13 States Parties with deadlines in 2017¹ (2), 2018² (5) and 2019³ (6) to prepare, either declarations of completion or requests for extensions of their deadlines and for this purpose, the ISU may carry out visit if necessary to some of these countries and work in collaboration of stakeholders on the ground.

The ISU will also do the follow up with States Parties⁴ that have been granted an extension of their clearance deadline and have been asked to come back with updated work plans or updated information on the implementation of Article 5.

In terms of support to individual States Parties provided for **victim assistance**, this area of work now falls under “enhanced support” and no activities under this umbrella will be carried out in 2017. What the ISU will do in 2017 for VA is to support the efforts of the Committee on VA to provide advice to the 29 relevant States Parties on reporting on the Maputo Action Plan victim assistance commitments.

The ISU will also support and provide advice to States Parties in preparing **transparency reports** as required by the Convention by promoting the use of the guide to reporting. This year, the President as well as all the Committees have indicated that an emphasis should be placed on improving the reporting by States Parties. The ISU will support them in trying to achieve this objective.

I will end here for the presentation of our activities this year. Do not hesitate to take a closer look at our work plan or come to us if you have any questions.

¹ Algeria (completion) and Ecuador (extension).

² Angola, Iraq, Thailand, Ukraine Zimbabwe.

³ BiH, Chad, Croatia, Cyprus, Serbia, Sudan and the UK.

⁴ Eritrea, Ethiopia, Niger and Senegal.