As Germany takes the floor for the first time during this Intersessional, we would like to thank Zambia for presiding this meeting and the coordinators Costa Rica and the Netherlands for their valuable work on the General Status and Operation of the Convention.

We would like to express our strong support to the Zambian Presidency in putting the decisions on the establishment of an ISU, taken by the States Parties in Beyrouth and Lusaka, into practice as soon as possible. We would appreciate the signing of an agreement with the GICHD on hosting the ISU and the advertisement of the position of the director of the ISU.

Germany is pleased to pledge to the new ISU 50,000 EUR in 2014. We would like to express our gratitude to Switzerland for its commitment to fill any financial gap that might arise while the new ISU is being created until the First Review Conference in Croatia.

Thank you.