

## STATEMENT ON THE 2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT AND PRESENTATION OF THE 2017 WORK PLAN AND BUDGET

Thank you Mr. President,

May I begin by thanking the States Parties for the support that they have given me over the past year which saw the Implementation Support Unit commence its functions. I wish to assure all States Parties of the continued unwavering support and availability of the ISU in ensuring that the implementation of the Convention is undertaken both efficiently and effectively.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates;

The implementation of the 2016 – 2020 ISU Workplan and budget, which were both approved in Dubrovnik last September, has been the main thrust of the ISU during the period under review and I now wish to give a brief overview of what was achieved in this time. The report before you covers the period May 2015, when the ISU was formally established, up to 30 June 2016.

During this period, the ISU smoothly took over the functions and other tasks previously undertaken by the UNDP as interim ISU. One of the first tasks the ISU undertook was to establish a distinct brand for the CCM with the creation of a logo which I am sure you are now all familiar with. The ISU has also produced other publications to augment Convention implementation efforts. The most significant of these was the publication of the Guide to Cluster Munitions 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition in collaboration with the GICHD and supported by the generous financial contribution of the Government of Italy. This publication came 6 years after the Convention entered into force and 7 years since the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition was published.

It addresses challenges in treaty compliance and best practices that have been developed within the sector to support effective and efficient implementation of the Convention. It also covers recent key developments in the field of survey that have improved measurement of contamination and efficiency of subsequent clearance; explores good practices in risk reduction education and integrated victim assistance approach, as well as other fields such as information management systems and gender and diversity. We have provided copies of this publication outside the plenary room and I encourage you to get a copy.

Following the adoption of the Dubrovnik Action Plan at the 1<sup>st</sup> Review Conference, this key Convention document has also been published as a booklet to make it an easy to carry reference document. Copies have also been made available to all meeting delegates.

During the past year, the ISU provided the administrative and substantive support necessary for the Convention's President and Coordination Committee members to effectively carry out their mandates in facilitating the implementation of the Convention's objectives as outlined in the Dubrovnik Action Plan.



The ISU is now almost fully staffed with the recruitment of the Implementation Support Specialist, Mr. Matthieu Laruelle, in May of this year. The recruitment of the Implementation Support Assistant was deferred to later in the year or until such a time as when the level of contributions received would be sufficient to cover the entire staff salaries portion of the budget to ensure the smooth running of the ISU without interruption.

**I now present the 2017 Workplan and budget.**

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

You will recall that the five year ISU work plan and budget approved last year, covered the period 2016 to 2020 in order to coincide with the period covered by the Dubrovnik Action Plan. Therefore, the work plan and budget before you is already approved but provides a little more detail on the main activities the ISU will undertake in a manner consistent with its mandate to support efforts of the States Parties to realise the objectives of the Dubrovnik Action Plan.

The proposed 2017 work plan and budget, therefore, relates to the mandate of the ISU, as adopted at the 2011 Second Meeting of the States Parties and is also in line with the priorities established in Dubrovnik by States Parties on the implementation the Convention over the five year period.

In keeping with this mandate, the ISU will continue to assist the President and the President-Designate in all aspects of the presidency, including but not limited to preparing and convening formal and informal meetings. This will consist of – both substantive and logistical - preparation and assistance to these meetings of the Convention. The ISU will also continue to provide as expected, the necessary advise and support to the CCM office bearers as well as to all States parties on the implementation of the Convention including by contracting, if required, relevant technical experts.

Furthermore, the ISU will continue to develop and maintain a resource base of relevant technical expertise and, upon request, provide States parties with such expertise; facilitate communication among States parties, facilitate communication with States not parties and maintain public relations, including efforts to promote the universalization of the Convention in cooperation and coordination with relevant actors, organizations and institutions.

I wish to point out that the projected activity levels remain modest as the magnitude of anticipated support must be consistent with the prevailing financial circumstances and the consequent need to keep costs low.

You will note that the main costs relate to the Unit's human resources, with the number of staff projected being consistent with the decision of the States Parties "to establish an ISU of up to 2.5 staff." However, in order to remain prudent in the administration of its finances, the ISU will continue to defer the recruitment of the member of staff to work at 50% until such a time as the ISU has sufficient funding to sustain all the three staff for a full year.

In conclusion, I wish to restate that the full implementation of the work plan will continue to be largely dependent on the availability of the requisite resources and enabling environment as highlighted in the assumptions section of the document.

I thank you Mr. President for the floor.