



Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)

CCM Intersessional Meeting 15 - 18 April 2013

Implementation Support Unit

Geneva, 17 April 2013

H.E. Urs Schmid, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the Conference on Disarmament

Mr. President,
Madame, Mister Co-ordinator,

Switzerland congratulates Norway for its leadership and guidance as the President of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, especially in regard to the crucial aspect of the establishment of an implementation support unit.

My delegation welcomes the opportunity to discuss the issue in greater detail. We would also like to thank you and the coordinators for the consultations held so far.

At the second meeting of States Parties in Lebanon in 2011, we took the collective decision to establish an ISU for the CCM..

Switzerland considers that acting on this decision and rapidly finalise the implementation architecture of the Convention on Cluster Munitions to be of great importance for both the application and the credibility of the instrument. Let me briefly outline in four points why we come to this conclusion:

- As shown in other regimes, especially in the APMBBC, an ISU makes a real difference in terms of implementation. The benefits of an ISU have been proven important for States Parties, especially for affected states, but also for donors.
- It is indeed crucial that affected States are in a position to benefit from advice and support, if requested, from a competent and efficient ISU. In many cases, such support in implementing obligations under the convention can be invaluable, in particular regarding clearance and victim assistance.
- Implementation would also strongly benefit in a different way. As a States Party which has assumed specific functions in the framework of similar instruments, we find the support provided by an ISU for States Parties taking up official functions to be of great value.

- Fourthly and more globally, the ISU would also be an important means to enhance co-operation between States Parties. The coherence, co-ordination and effectiveness of our common endeavours – as we have discussed throughout this week - will be reinforced by the support of an ISU tasked to provide advice and serving as a hub for queries.

Mr. President,

Madame / Mister Co-ordinator,

At the 2nd MSP in Lebanon, we adopted the directive, which established the task and responsibilities of the ISU.

We also decided that the ISU shall conduct its work on the principles of independence, inclusiveness, transparency and accountability. Finally, we resolved that it would be hosted by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian demining (GICHD).

The only element that really still stands in the way of the establishment of the ISU CCM is the adoption of a financing model. In view of the importance and benefits of an ISU, we call upon all States Parties to contribute to a rapid solution to this outstanding question.

We therefore very much welcome the food for thought paper and the draft decision put forward by the presidency at the beginning of this intersessional meeting. An outstanding gap remains regarding the financial model and it needs to be swiftly bridged so that we can adopt a decision at the Meeting of States parties in Lusaka establishing the ISU. Switzerland would like to see the ISU to be established on as sound a financial basis as possible. In view of the importance of rapidly establishing an ISU, it believes that it is important what we be both creative and flexible.

In that sense, we believe that the food for thought paper of the presidency to be of particular importance. This document provides a number of elements and precedents that could enable us to identify possible creative solutions and bridge the outstanding differences. We would urge all States Parties to carefully study this document and show during the consultations the flexibility and creativity, which are now called for.

Establishing the ISU is too important for us to fail in this endeavour. If we aspire to a strong and universal CCM, we will find a suitable and agreeable way to finance a small implementation unit to support the convention.

For its part, Switzerland is not only willing to show flexibility. It is also willing to contribute significantly to the financing of the ISU through voluntary in-kind contribution provided through the GICHD and covering not simply workspace, but also intersessional meetings, communication, logistics and general administration.

In this regard and after consultations with the GICHD, Switzerland reaffirms its willingness to contribute with voluntary in-kind contributions via the GICHD. The figures contained in the Norwegian proposal put forward in the open-ended consultations represent in our view a realistic assumption of the costs. This means, that Switzerland will cover almost half of the costs of the future ISU.

Thank you.