



## **FIRST REVIEW CONFERENCE (1RC) OF THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS**

Dubrovnik, 7–11 September 2015

### **Statement on the ISU by Germany**

Madam President,

Germany once again welcomes the new director of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU), Ms. Sheila Mweemba, and wishes her and her staff all the best in their work. We believe that the ISU will play a vital role in helping achieve the aims of the Convention, and that all States Parties will benefit from its services – such as valuable support to our meetings, sound advice to office-holders, technical support to affected States Parties and promotion of the Convention to the international community.

We are ready to support the ISU. As the Coordinators for Status and Operation of the Convention, the Netherlands and Lebanon, suggested, we also have a preference for assessed contributions. They seem to be the only way for the ISU to receive sufficient funds and allow the unit to operate in a sustainable way and without a permanent shortage of funds, as we have seen in the case of the ISU of the Anti-Personnel Landmine Convention. However, Germany is ready to support any viable compromise the States Parties can agree on. Yet, it would be unfortunate and the wrong signal if only a small number of States Parties carry the financial burden of the ISU's costs. The Convention needs the commitment and support of all States Parties in order to be successful.

We, just like other States Parties, would like to see a cost-efficient ISU. Germany appreciates the support of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) for the important work of the ISU by hosting the unit on its premises.

However, a large number of States Parties have rightly raised concerns about the GICHD's high salary scheme, that would apply to the ISU. It is our understanding that the ISU – while being hosted by the GICHD – remains an independent unit under the oversight of the States Parties to the Convention. Thus, the States Parties should take and approve any decisions with financial implications.

In the medium term, we see a great advantage in merging the ISUs of the Anti-Personnel Landmine Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions. The two ISUs are carrying out virtually the same set of tasks. We therefore urge the States Parties of the Anti-Personnel Landmine Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions to consider steps in this direction. We are not convinced by the argument that these ISUs cannot be merged merely because the Conventions have a different set of States Parties. We should certainly not stop thinking about creative approaches. The States Parties to both Conventions could have a joint meeting and vote on merging these two ISUs.

Thank you, Madam President.