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Review of the operation and status of the Convention and other matters important for achieving the aims of the Convention

Implementation Support

Convention on Cluster Munitions Implementation Support Unit – 2025 Annual Report

I. Narrative Report on the CCM ISU Work

A. Summary

1. This report presents the activities undertaken by the CCM Implementation Support Unit (ISU) and the results achieved in implementing its 2025 Work Plan during the period from 1 January to 31 December 2025. The activities were carried out in accordance with the 2025 Work Plan and Budget approved by the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties (12MSP). They also contributed to implementing the Convention's 2021–2026 Multi-Year Work Plan and Budget Framework adopted by the Second Review Conference. The report covers the same reporting period as the audited financial statements of the CCM ISU Trust Fund and the CCM Sponsorship Programme Trust Fund.

2. Throughout the reporting cycle, the CCM ISU supported the Presidency of the Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties (13MSP), held in Geneva from 16 to 19 September 2025, led by the Republic of the Philippines, and the Presidency of the Third Review Conference (3RC), led by the Lao People's Democratic Republic. It also supported the thematic Coordinators and States Parties across all areas of implementation.

3. Priority was given to strengthening implementation of the Convention's core obligations, expanding regional engagement, enhancing cooperation among stakeholders, and improving the planning, coordination, and delivery of implementation support. These priorities responded to increasing operational demands on the Convention and a rapidly evolving humanitarian disarmament environment, underscoring the importance of maintaining an effective, responsive, and professional implementation support mechanism.

4. Implementation was also shaped by developments across the broader humanitarian disarmament landscape. Continued use of cluster munitions by States not party, rising geopolitical tensions, growing pressure on international humanitarian norms, reductions in resources for mine action and humanitarian programmes, and the Convention's first withdrawal by a State Party created a more demanding implementation environment. These developments underscored the need for sustained political commitment, collective ownership, and effective institutional support.

5. They also reinforced that effective implementation depends not only on the commitment of States Parties, but also on robust institutional capacity. Accordingly, the CCM ISU continued to strengthen its institutional capacities and working methods to improve the quality, efficiency of its support to States Parties. Continued improvements in planning, coordination, knowledge management, communications and performance



monitoring enabled more proactive engagement with States Parties, strengthened support to the Convention's governance processes, and enhanced continuity across its implementation architecture.

6. Despite these challenges, the CCM ISU maintained implementation support across all thematic areas, demonstrating the value of sustained investment in the institutional capacities required to deliver effective, high-quality support in an increasingly complex and demanding operational environment.

B. 2025 Strategic Objectives

7. The CCM ISU's work in 2025 was guided by the objective of supporting the effective implementation of the Convention while strengthening the institutional foundations necessary to sustain implementation in an increasingly complex operating environment. Emphasis was placed on assisting States Parties in meeting their obligations, supporting the Convention's governance processes and preparations for the Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties, strengthening cooperation and partnerships, and enhancing the quality, consistency and responsiveness of implementation support.

8. To achieve these objectives, the CCM ISU focused on:

(a) Supporting implementation of the Convention through responsive, tailored and evidence-based assistance to States Parties across all areas of implementation;

(b) Assisting the Presidency, supporting Coordinators and other office holders in advancing preparations for the Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties and the Third Review Conference, while facilitating effective governance, coordination and decision-making;

(c) Promoting cooperation, dialogue and partnerships to advance implementation, universalization, and international cooperation and assistance;

(d) Enhancing the Convention's visibility and humanitarian relevance through strategic communications, outreach and engagement with humanitarian, technical, legal, academic and disarmament stakeholders;

(e) Strengthening the CCM ISU's institutional capacities, working methods and knowledge management to improve the quality, consistency, continuity and sustainability of implementation support;

(f) Strengthening the Sponsorship Programme as a strategic mechanism to promote implementation, inclusive participation and universalization.

C. Key Outcomes

9. The CCM ISU's work during the reporting period contributed to the following key outcomes:

(a) Strengthened governance and institutional continuity through support to the Presidency of the Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties, the transition to the Presidency of the Third Review Conference, and preparations for the Convention's next implementation cycle;

(b) Enhanced implementation support across all thematic areas of the Convention through more responsive, tailored and coordinated assistance to States Parties, contributing to more effective implementation of Convention obligations;

(c) Improved national implementation planning and evidence-informed decision-making through technical support to States Parties, including assistance in the preparation of high-quality extension requests and other implementation processes;

(d) Expanded regional engagement and strategic partnerships through regional workshops, stakeholder consultations and strengthened cooperation with international organizations, humanitarian actors, parliamentarians, academic institutions and other implementation partners;

(e) Strengthened institutional effectiveness through continued improvements in planning, coordination, knowledge management, communications and performance

monitoring, enhancing the quality, consistency, continuity and responsiveness of implementation support;

(f) Enhanced strategic communications and implementation support mechanisms, including the Sponsorship Programme, contributing to broader participation, increased visibility of the Convention and more effective engagement by States Parties and other stakeholders.

10. These outcomes reinforced the Convention's institutional effectiveness and demonstrated the value of continued investment in institutional capacities to ensure responsive, coordinated and forward-looking implementation support for States Parties.

D. Detailed Report on Implementation Support Activities

11. The activities described in this section illustrate how the CCM ISU supported implementation of the Convention during the reporting period. Working closely with the Presidency, Coordinators, States Parties, partner organizations and other stakeholders, the CCM ISU provided substantive, technical and institutional support to strengthen implementation, facilitate cooperation and advance preparations for the Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties and the Third Review Conference.

12. Throughout 2025, the CCM ISU's work was organised around the following core functions:

- (a) Assisting the Presidency and supporting the Convention's governance processes;
- (b) Supporting Coordinators across all areas of implementation;
- (c) Providing tailored implementation support to individual States Parties;
- (d) Strengthening knowledge management and institutional memory;
- (e) Facilitating communication, cooperation and stakeholder engagement;
- (f) Serving as an interface between States Parties and the wider international community;
- (g) Managing the Sponsorship Programme; and
- (h) Integrating cross-cutting considerations across all areas of implementation.

13. The following sections describe the principal activities undertaken during the reporting period and their contribution to strengthening implementation of the Convention and preparing for the next phase of its implementation cycle.

1. Assistance to the Presidency and Support to the Coordination Committee

14. Throughout 2025, the CCM ISU provided substantive, strategic, technical, and administrative support to the Presidency of the Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties, while ensuring an effective transition to the Presidency of the Third Review Conference. Through its support to both Presidencies, the CCM ISU helped maintain continuity in the Convention's governance and implementation processes while advancing preparations for the Third Review Conference.

15. Pursuant to the mandate of the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties, the CCM ISU supported the Presidency in undertaking the review of the 2014 Agreement between the States Parties to the CCM and the GICHD on the Hosting of the CCM ISU.

16. During the reporting period, the CCM ISU also supported the Presidency in the preparation, negotiation, and conclusion of an exemption agreement pursuant to Article 5 of the Hosting Agreement, signed on 6 August 2025. The Agreement marked an important step in strengthening the institutional framework of the CCM ISU by enabling, for the first time, the introduction of a professional staff appraisal system that reflects the Unit's specific mandates and functions, while also providing greater flexibility in workforce planning through appropriately structured contract durations. These arrangements strengthen continuity, support planned renewal and diversity within the Unit, and contribute to

maintaining the professional implementation capacity required to assist States Parties effectively.

17. Working closely with the Presidency, the CCM ISU facilitated informed decision-making, supported implementation of agreed priorities, and strengthened coordination across the Convention's implementation machinery. The CCM ISU also provided substantive, technical, and procedural support to the Coordination Committee by preparing documentation, coordinating consultations, monitoring follow-up to agreed actions, and facilitating communication among Coordinators, States Parties, and partner organizations. These efforts promoted coherent planning, strengthened coordination, and supported implementation of the Convention's work programme.

18. During the reporting period, the CCM ISU supported five formal meetings of the Coordination Committee, including meetings convened under the Presidencies of the Philippines and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, as well as informal consultations and preparatory discussions that advanced planning for the Third Review Conference and strengthened coordination on emerging implementation priorities.

19. A major focus of the year was ensuring a smooth transition between Presidencies. The CCM ISU supported the incoming Presidency in developing priorities and work plans, provided institutional advice and background analysis, and assisted with early preparations for the Third Review Conference, helping to preserve institutional continuity while positioning the Convention for its next implementation cycle.

Support to the 2025 Intersessional Meeting and Stakeholder Dialogue

20. The 2025 Intersessional Meeting, held in Geneva, 7-8 April 2025, served as the Convention's principal informal forum for reviewing implementation progress, exchanging experiences, discussing emerging challenges, and advancing preparations for the Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties and the Third Review Conference.

21. The CCM ISU supported all stages of the Meeting, including programme development, documentation, consultations, the Stakeholder Dialogue, and meeting delivery. Working closely with the Presidency, the Coordination Committee, and the Thematic Coordinators, the CCM ISU provided substantive, technical, procedural, and administrative support before, during, and after the Meeting, facilitating informed discussions, coordinated follow-up, and the advancement of the Convention's thematic work.

22. The Stakeholder Dialogue brought together States Parties, international organizations, civil society, and representatives of affected communities to exchange perspectives on implementation challenges and emerging priorities. Together with the Meeting's thematic consultations and the CCM ISU's broader implementation support activities, it strengthened cooperation across the Convention community, informed preparations for the Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties, and reinforced momentum towards the Third Review Conference.

2. Support to Thematic Coordinators

23. The CCM ISU also promoted closer coordination among the Convention's Thematic Coordinators, facilitated engagement with partner organizations and encouraged integrated consideration of implementation issues across thematic workstreams. Together, these efforts strengthened governance continuity, supported evidence-informed decision-making and reinforced the institutional foundations for the next review cycle.

Support on Universalization

24. Throughout 2025, the CCM ISU supported the Coordinators on Universalization in advancing targeted outreach to signatory States and States not party through political engagement, technical advice, regional cooperation and tailored implementation support. In an increasingly complex geopolitical environment, these efforts sought to promote accession while reinforcing the Convention's humanitarian objectives and normative framework.

25. Working closely with the Presidency, the Coordinators, States Parties and partner organizations, the CCM ISU coordinated outreach to signatories, States not party, and other stakeholders. Outreach priorities were continuously adapted to political developments

affecting the Convention, balancing efforts to promote new accessions with measures to safeguard the integrity of its normative framework. Following the entry into effect of Lithuania's withdrawal from the Convention in March 2025, the first withdrawal by a State Party since the Convention entered into force, the CCM ISU supported the Presidency in coordinating engagement with Lithuanian authorities and other stakeholders to preserve confidence in the Convention's humanitarian objectives, mitigate potential implications for its normative framework and encourage continued dialogue.

26. The CCM ISU also supported the Informal Working Group on Universalization by facilitating information exchange, identifying outreach priorities, and coordinating engagement strategies. In addition, it assisted the Coordinators in bilateral outreach to States considering accession by providing technical advice on accession procedures, implementation obligations, and the practical implications of becoming a State Party.

27. Regional engagement remained central to the CCM ISU's universalization efforts. In support of the Presidency, the CCM ISU co-organised the Southeast Asia and Pacific Regional Workshop on the Convention on Cluster Munitions, in Manila, from 18 to 19 March 2025, strengthening regional dialogue, promoting exchanges of implementation experience and supporting continued engagement with Pacific States, including Vanuatu, which subsequently acceded to the Convention, on 5 September 2025. Targeted outreach was also undertaken with the Central African Republic and Tajikistan.

28. The CCM ISU further expanded strategic partnerships to strengthen universalization efforts. Cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union promoted parliamentary engagement in accession and national implementation, while collaboration with the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs supported the Convention's visibility during the United Nations Treaty Event. The CCM ISU also engaged regional organizations, diplomatic missions, academic institutions, students, and youth organizations to broaden awareness of the Convention and its humanitarian objectives.

29. Throughout the reporting period, the CCM ISU monitored political and normative developments affecting the Convention, including trends in voting on the annual United Nations General Assembly resolution. This analysis informed the work of the Coordination Committee, supported evidence-informed decision-making and helped identify priorities for future outreach.

30. Together, these efforts strengthened political engagement, expanded regional cooperation and strategic partnerships, promoted accession, and reinforced the Convention's normative resilience and long-term effectiveness in a changing international environment.

Support on Stockpile Destruction and Retention

31. The reporting period marked the first full year following the completion, in December 2024, of the destruction of all cluster munition stockpiles declared by States Parties. This important milestone shifted the emphasis of Article 3 implementation from completing existing destruction obligations to sustaining compliance, preserving technical expertise and ensuring continued support for future implementation requirements.

32. Throughout 2025, the CCM ISU supported the Coordinator on Stockpile Destruction and Retention in sustaining implementation of Article 3. Emphasis was placed on preserving and transferring the knowledge and experience gained through more than a decade of stockpile destruction, promoting transparency through Article 7 reporting, and facilitating exchanges of implementation experience and good practices.

33. The CCM ISU also supported discussions on technical aspects of Article 3 implementation, including lessons learned from national destruction programmes, environmentally responsible destruction practices where appropriate, transparency and reporting obligations, and the retention of cluster munitions and explosive submunitions permitted under Article 3.6 for the development of, and training in, detection, clearance and destruction techniques. These exchanges helped preserve institutional knowledge, strengthen technical cooperation, and support continued implementation of Article 3.

34. The continued relevance of Article 3 implementation support was demonstrated when a State Party identified previously unknown stockpiled cluster munitions and requested

technical advice on their safe destruction in accordance with the Convention. The CCM ISU provided guidance on the applicable obligations, shared relevant implementation experience and facilitated access to technical expertise, illustrating that practical implementation challenges may continue to arise even after completion of declared stockpile destruction obligations.

35. Throughout the reporting period, the CCM ISU continued promoting technical cooperation, knowledge-sharing, and practical implementation support as essential elements of sustaining compliance under Article 3. Together, these efforts helped preserve one of the Convention's most significant humanitarian achievements while ensuring that the knowledge, technical expertise and implementation support required for future Article 3 implementation remain available to States Parties whenever needed.

Support on Clearance

36. Throughout 2025, the CCM ISU continued supporting implementation of Article 4 by providing practical, tailored and increasingly proactive assistance to affected States Parties in fulfilling their obligations relating to the clearance and destruction of cluster munition remnants. As preparations for the Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties advanced, particular emphasis was placed on strengthening nationally owned implementation planning, promoting realistic and evidence-based completion strategies, facilitating international cooperation and supporting sustainable national implementation capacities.

37. Support for Article 4 remained one of the CCM ISU's principal priorities as five States Parties submitted extension requests during the reporting period. Working closely with the Article 4 Analysis Group, the CCM ISU provided substantive, technical and procedural support throughout the extension request cycle, including reviewing draft submissions, facilitating dialogue between requesting States Parties, the Analysis Group and implementation partners, and providing tailored feedback to improve the quality, consistency and practicality of extension requests.

38. The CCM ISU promoted extension requests not merely as procedural requirements but as strategic implementation planning tools, enabling States Parties to establish realistic completion pathways aligned with national capacities, operational realities and available resources. To support this approach, the CCM ISU maintained close engagement with requesting States Parties by providing tailored technical guidance, facilitating consultations and encouraging early engagement well in advance of formal submission deadlines.

39. The CCM ISU also convened technical consultations bringing together requesting States Parties, the Presidency, members of the Analysis Group and implementation partners to review implementation progress, identify operational challenges, discuss resource requirements and explore opportunities for international cooperation and assistance. Where appropriate, the CCM ISU facilitated discussions on specific implementation challenges, helping connect technical expertise with practical implementation needs and support coordinated responses among relevant partners.

40. Beyond extension requests, the CCM ISU supported broader implementation of Article 4 by promoting cooperation among affected States Parties, facilitating exchanges of implementation experience and strengthening linkages between clearance, explosive ordnance risk education, international cooperation and assistance, and sustainable national implementation planning. Emphasis was placed on preserving institutional knowledge, promoting transparency, sharing good practices and strengthening nationally owned implementation capacities.

41. Together, these efforts strengthened the quality of Article 4 implementation planning, reinforced nationally owned approaches to clearance and promoted more coordinated, evidence-based and sustainable implementation. While significant progress has been achieved, operational, financial and security challenges continue to affect implementation in several States Parties. Through its support, the CCM ISU helped affected States Parties adapt to these evolving circumstances while sustaining progress towards the Convention's humanitarian objectives.

Support on Risk Education

42. The reporting period marked an important milestone with the operationalization of Risk Education as a dedicated thematic area within the Convention's implementation machinery. Building on the decision of the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties, the CCM ISU worked closely with the Lao People's Democratic Republic, serving as the Convention's first Coordinator on Risk Education, to establish the new coordination mechanism and strengthen implementation support in this area.

43. The CCM ISU supported the Coordinator in developing and implementing the initial work programme, facilitating dialogue among States Parties and promoting a shared understanding of the evolving role of risk education within the Convention. Particular emphasis was placed on strengthening nationally owned implementation, institutional integration and sustainable national capacities.

44. The CCM ISU also supported presentation of the Coordinator's work programme during the 2025 Intersessional Meeting and facilitated exchanges among affected States Parties, practitioners and technical partners on implementation challenges, operational experience and opportunities for international cooperation. These discussions helped establish common priorities and advance implementation of this newly established thematic area.

45. A significant milestone was the international workshop, Moving from National Ownership to National Leadership of Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE), on 16 June 2025, convened by the Coordinator with the support of the CCM ISU and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD). The workshop brought together States Parties, international organizations and practitioners to promote practical approaches to strengthening national leadership, institutional sustainability and the integration of risk education into broader national implementation frameworks.

46. The CCM ISU also promoted closer integration between risk education, clearance, victim assistance and international cooperation and assistance, reinforcing coordinated approaches across the Convention's implementation framework.

47. Together, these efforts established the institutional foundations for Risk Education as a permanent thematic area within the Convention's implementation machinery, strengthened national leadership and promoted more integrated implementation across the Convention's humanitarian obligations. They also reinforced the growing recognition of risk education as an essential component of Convention implementation, particularly in contexts where operational, financial or security constraints delay clearance, enabling States Parties to continue protecting affected communities while advancing longer-term implementation efforts.

Support on Victim Assistance

48. Victim Assistance remains at the heart of the Convention's humanitarian purpose and reflects its strong commitment to the rights, inclusion and meaningful participation of cluster munition victims and survivors. Throughout 2025, the CCM ISU supported implementation of Article 5 by assisting States Parties in advancing nationally owned, rights-based approaches that strengthen the inclusion and meaningful participation of victims, their families and affected communities in line with the Convention's humanitarian and human rights commitments.

49. Working closely with the Coordinator on Victim Assistance, the CCM ISU supported affected States Parties through regular engagement, technical advice and bilateral consultations, while analysing Article 7 transparency reports to assess progress in implementing Article 5 obligations. These efforts helped identify achievements, highlight implementation gaps and promote practical, sustainable and nationally owned approaches to strengthening victim assistance.

50. The CCM ISU also promoted the integration of victim assistance within national health, rehabilitation, disability and social inclusion systems, recognising that sustainable implementation is best achieved by strengthening existing national capacities rather than establishing parallel structures. Exchanges among States Parties and implementation partners

facilitated the sharing of practical experience, supported peer learning and reinforced nationally owned implementation.

51. The CCM ISU further strengthened cooperation across humanitarian disarmament instruments and related international frameworks. Engagement with the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), including participation in its annual Victim Assistance Retreat, together with collaboration with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the World Health Organization (WHO), Humanity & Inclusion (HI), UNMAS and other partners, promoted policy coherence, facilitated the exchange of experience and reinforced integrated approaches to addressing the long-term needs and rights of victims and affected communities.

52. Together, these efforts strengthened nationally owned implementation of Article 5, reinforced the integration of victim assistance within broader disability, health and social inclusion frameworks, and promoted a more coordinated, inclusive and sustainable approach to supporting victims and affected communities. They also reinforced the Convention's distinctive rights-based approach to implementation, recognising victim assistance not only as a humanitarian obligation but as an essential component of the full realization of the rights and dignity of cluster munition victims.

Support on International Cooperation and Assistance

53. International Cooperation and Assistance remained central to effective implementation of the Convention throughout 2025. Recognising that many States Parties rely on international partnerships to fulfil their obligations, the CCM ISU promoted more strategic, evidence-informed and coordinated approaches to cooperation by helping align implementation priorities with available technical, financial and institutional support.

54. The CCM ISU analysed Article 7 transparency reports, monitored implementation developments and identified emerging priorities to inform dialogue among affected States Parties, donor States, international organisations and implementation partners. This evidence-informed approach contributed to more focused discussions on implementation needs, available assistance and opportunities for cooperation.

55. The CCM ISU also facilitated dialogue between the Coordinators and affected States Parties, donor countries and relevant partners to connect identified implementation needs with available expertise and resources. Attention was given to supporting Article 4 implementation, transparency reporting and broader national implementation planning, while promoting nationally owned and sustainable implementation approaches.

56. The CCM ISU further supported Coordinators in the promotion of the Country Coalition mechanism as a practical framework for supporting nationally led implementation through coordinated international cooperation. While recognising that the mechanism remains underutilised, the CCM ISU encouraged greater awareness of its potential to mobilise complementary expertise, strengthen partnerships and support long-term implementation aligned with national priorities.

57. Beyond Convention-specific cooperation, the CCM ISU strengthened exchanges with related humanitarian disarmament instruments and international organisations, promoting policy coherence, the sharing of good practices and more integrated responses to common implementation challenges.

58. Together, these efforts strengthened the quality and strategic focus of international cooperation and assistance, helping align available resources with nationally identified implementation priorities. In a context of increasing implementation needs and constrained resources, they also reinforced the importance of coordinated, evidence-informed cooperation as a means of supporting sustainable implementation of the Convention.

Support on Transparency Measures

59. Transparency remains fundamental to the effective implementation and credibility of the Convention. Throughout 2025, the CCM ISU supported States Parties in fulfilling their Article 7 reporting obligations while assisting the Coordinator on Transparency Measures in

promoting transparency as a practical tool for implementation, international cooperation, accountability and confidence-building.

60. Working with the Coordinator, the CCM ISU provided technical assistance to States Parties in preparing and submitting Article 7 reports by responding to reporting queries, providing clarifications and encouraging timely submissions. Attention was given to supporting States Parties facing capacity constraints and promoting greater consistency and completeness in reporting practices.

61. Addressing longstanding gaps in initial transparency reporting remained a key priority. Through sustained bilateral engagement and tailored technical support, three States Parties submitted their outstanding initial transparency reports, reducing the number of States Parties with overdue initial reports from nine to six. The CCM ISU also promoted timely annual reporting through formal reminders, bilateral follow-up and engagement during meetings throughout the year, resulting in the submission of 61 of the 103 expected annual reports for the 2023 reporting cycle.

62. Beyond supporting reporting compliance, the CCM ISU increasingly used information contained in Article 7 reports to strengthen implementation across the Convention. Systematic analysis of submitted reports and other implementation information enabled the CCM ISU to identify implementation progress, reporting gaps, emerging challenges and opportunities for international cooperation and assistance. These findings informed engagement with States Parties, supported the work of the Thematic Coordinators, guided preparations for the Third Review Conference and contributed to more targeted, evidence-informed implementation support. By transforming reporting into practical analysis, the CCM ISU helped ensure that transparency informed implementation priorities rather than serving solely as a reporting exercise.

63. Together, these efforts reinforced transparency as more than a reporting obligation. They strengthened its role as a practical mechanism for guiding implementation, informing cooperation and assistance, supporting evidence-based decision-making and enhancing accountability across the Convention. They also demonstrated the importance of sustained institutional capacity and technical expertise to analyse implementation information and translate it into practical, targeted support for States Parties.

Support on National Implementation Measures

64. Supporting States Parties in adopting and strengthening national implementation measures remained an important component of the CCM ISU's work throughout 2025. Working closely with the Coordinator on National Implementation Measures, the CCM ISU assisted States Parties in developing legal, administrative and institutional measures necessary to implement their obligations under Article 9, recognising that effective implementation depends on building national systems that reflect each State Party's legal framework, institutional arrangements and implementation priorities.

65. The CCM ISU provided tailored technical advice to States Parties at different stages of the implementation process, responding to requests on legislative frameworks, administrative measures, institutional arrangements and implementation practice. Through bilateral consultations, thematic discussions and exchanges of national experience, the CCM ISU promoted greater understanding of Article 9 obligations while facilitating the sharing of practical approaches and good practices.

66. The CCM ISU also supported the integration of national implementation measures across the Convention's obligations, including transparency reporting, stockpile destruction, clearance, victim assistance and international cooperation and assistance. This encouraged more coherent national implementation frameworks, strengthened institutional coordination and reinforced national ownership across thematic areas.

67. Recognising that effective implementation extends beyond the adoption of legislation, the CCM ISU promoted a broader understanding of Article 9 as a framework for building sustainable national implementation systems. By encouraging States Parties to clarify institutional responsibilities, strengthen coordination mechanisms and integrate legal, administrative and operational measures, the CCM ISU supported more coherent, resilient

and nationally owned implementation of the Convention. Together, these efforts reinforced national implementation capacities and strengthened the institutional foundations necessary for the Convention's long-term implementation.

3. *Provide Advice and Technical Support to Individual States Parties*

68. Providing tailored advice and technical support to individual States Parties remained at the core of the CCM ISU's mandate throughout 2025. As the Convention's implementation support hub, the CCM ISU combined technical expertise, institutional knowledge and implementation experience to help States Parties translate Convention obligations into practical, nationally owned implementation.

69. The CCM ISU responded to requests across the full range of Convention obligations, providing technical and procedural guidance, clarifying implementation requirements, supporting reporting and extension processes, advising on national implementation measures and facilitating access to relevant expertise and implementation experience. Support was tailored to each State Party's legal, institutional and operational context.

70. Drawing on knowledge generated across the Convention's implementation machinery, the CCM ISU enabled States Parties to benefit from the experience of the Presidency, Thematic Coordinators and partner organisations, while facilitating exchanges of good practices and access to specialised expertise where needed.

71. The CCM ISU also continued strengthening its knowledge management systems, internal working methods and guidance resources to provide more timely, consistent and evidence-informed support while preserving institutional knowledge. Publications including the CCM Newsletter, updated guidance materials and Lausanne Action Plan resources extended implementation support beyond direct bilateral engagement.

72. Demand for tailored implementation support remained high, reflecting increasingly diverse implementation challenges. Together, these efforts strengthened the CCM ISU's capacity to deliver responsive, evidence-informed support and practical solutions adapted to national circumstances.

4. *Support on Meeting Documentation, Knowledge Management and Institutional Memory*

73. Effective meeting documentation, knowledge management and institutional memory remained fundamental to the Convention's implementation architecture throughout 2025. The CCM ISU supported institutional continuity by preparing substantive documentation, maintaining official records and ensuring that knowledge generated through the Convention's work remained organised, accessible and available to States Parties and future implementation processes.

74. In support of the Presidency and Thematic Coordinators, the CCM ISU prepared substantive documentation for formal and informal meetings, contributing to informed decision-making, consistency across governance processes and continuity between successive meetings and reporting cycles.

75. Emphasis was placed on documenting the 2025 Intersessional Meeting and Stakeholder Dialogue, as well as supporting the initial planning of the Third Review Conference through preparatory documentation and coordination with the incoming Presidency. These efforts helped preserve institutional continuity while ensuring that preparations built on previous decisions and implementation experience rather than beginning anew.

76. Throughout the reporting period, the CCM ISU continued strengthening the Convention's institutional memory by systematically maintaining records of meetings, decisions and implementation developments. Knowledge generated through thematic work, regional activities and direct support to States Parties was captured and incorporated into the CCM ISU's knowledge base, enabling more consistent, evidence-informed implementation support across successive Presidencies and reporting cycles.

77. Together, these efforts reinforced documentation and knowledge management as strategic implementation assets rather than administrative functions. By preserving

institutional memory and making implementation experience readily accessible, the CCM ISU strengthened continuity, supported evidence-informed decision-making and enhanced the Convention's long-term implementation capacity.

5. *Facilitate communication amongst States Parties and other relevant actors, cooperate and coordinate amongst these and maintain public relations, including efforts to promote universalization and other work of the Convention*

78. Throughout 2025, the CCM ISU facilitated communication, coordination and the exchange of implementation information among States Parties and an expanding network of partners supporting the Convention. By promoting dialogue across humanitarian, diplomatic, technical and academic communities, the CCM ISU strengthened cooperation, broadened stakeholder engagement and enhanced the visibility of the Convention.

79. Emphasis was placed on expanding engagement beyond traditional humanitarian disarmament stakeholders. The CCM ISU strengthened collaboration with survivor organisations, humanitarian and international organisations, parliamentarians, academic and research institutions, youth networks and implementation partners, creating additional opportunities for dialogue, outreach and the exchange of implementation experience.

80. The CCM ISU also strengthened cooperation with established partners, including humanitarian disarmament organisations, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, while supporting public awareness through presentations, conferences, academic engagement and digital communication. The Convention's website, newsletter and other information resources were regularly updated to improve access to implementation information and support communication across the Convention community.

81. Together, these efforts strengthened communication as a strategic implementation tool. By connecting States Parties with expertise, implementation experience and a broader community of stakeholders, the CCM ISU reinforced cooperation, expanded the Convention's visibility, strengthened and amplified the CCM community of practice and supported its long-term implementation and universalization.

6. *Serve as an interface between the States Parties and the international community on issues related to the implementation of the CCM*

82. Implementation of the Convention depends on effective cooperation among a diverse community of States Parties, international organizations, technical experts, humanitarian actors, donors, parliamentarians, academia and civil society. Throughout 2025, the CCM ISU continued serving as the Convention's principal institutional interface, connecting these communities and helping translate national implementation priorities into coordinated international engagement.

83. By acting as an institutional hub, the CCM ISU facilitated dialogue across communities that do not always engage directly, linking policy discussions with operational experience and connecting States Parties with relevant expertise, implementation experience and opportunities for international cooperation. This role helped ensure that technical knowledge informed policy discussions, while political priorities were reflected in practical implementation support.

84. Emphasis was placed on broadening engagement beyond the Convention's traditional stakeholders. Through stakeholder dialogues, bilateral engagement and participation in international forums, the CCM ISU brought together diverse actors to exchange implementation experience, identify emerging challenges and explore collaborative approaches to implementation. Regular engagement with diplomatic missions, United Nations entities, humanitarian organizations, implementation partners and research institutions also strengthened coordination and facilitated timely exchanges on developments affecting the Convention.

85. Together, these efforts reinforced the CCM ISU's role as the Convention's institutional bridge between policy, implementation and partnership. By connecting diverse actors around shared implementation priorities, the CCM ISU strengthened cooperation,

supported evidence-informed decision-making and contributed to the Convention's long-term effectiveness, universalization and normative resilience.

7. *Manage the Sponsorship Programme*

86. Throughout 2025, the CCM ISU continued managing the Sponsorship Programme with the administrative support of the GICHD, using it as a strategic implementation support mechanism that enables meaningful participation in the Convention's work. Beyond facilitating attendance at meetings, the Programme helped ensure that affected States Parties, States with limited resources, Signatories and interested States not party could contribute implementation experience, participate in technical discussions and engage in decision-making, thereby strengthening implementation, cooperation and inclusivity.

87. Building on measures introduced in previous years, the CCM ISU further strengthened the Programme's strategic orientation by directing limited resources towards implementation priorities, encouraging meaningful technical participation and supporting universalization, international cooperation and the exchange of national experience. Increasing attention was also given to ensuring continuity of participation where delegates could make a sustained contribution to the Convention's implementation processes while making the best use of available resources.

88. Recognising the importance of strengthening the Programme's long-term governance, the CCM ISU prepared and submitted a working paper to the 13MSP to initiate discussion on possible Sponsorship Programme guidelines. Rather than proposing prescriptive rules, the paper encouraged reflection on how the Programme could further strengthen transparency, consistency and strategic impact while preserving the flexibility needed to respond to evolving implementation priorities and the diverse circumstances of States Parties.

89. Together, these efforts reinforced the evolution of the Sponsorship Programme from a participation mechanism into a strategic implementation tool that helps direct limited resources where they make the greatest contribution to implementation, cooperation and universalization.

8. *Integrating Cross Cutting Themes Across Implementation*

90. Throughout 2025, the CCM ISU continued integrating cross-cutting considerations across implementation of the Convention. Rather than constituting separate areas of work, these considerations strengthened the quality, inclusiveness and sustainability of implementation across the Convention's core obligations. By promoting implementation that is responsive to the diverse needs of affected populations, environmentally responsible and forward-looking, the CCM ISU supported States Parties in translating the Convention's humanitarian objectives into more effective and sustainable practice.

Gender and the Diverse Needs and Experiences of Affected Populations

91. Gender, age and the diverse needs and experiences of affected populations remained central to effective implementation. Throughout the reporting period, the CCM ISU worked with the Presidency, Thematic Coordinators, States Parties and partner organisations to integrate these considerations across implementation support, including transparency reporting, victim assistance, international cooperation and assistance, and other implementation processes.

92. The CCM ISU also contributed to international dialogue on gender-responsive implementation by participating in the UNIDIR workshop on gender-sensitive victim assistance and supporting the launch of the report *From Casualties to Care: Implementing Age- and Gender-Sensitive Victim Assistance*, contributing to the exchange of good practice across humanitarian disarmament instruments.

Environmental Considerations

93. Environmental considerations continued to emerge as an important aspect of sustainable implementation. During the reporting period, the CCM ISU supported the Coordinators on Clearance in developing a working paper examining environmental

considerations relevant to Article 4 implementation. This work contributed to discussions on how, where appropriate, environmental considerations can be reflected in the planning and implementation of clearance activities while remaining fully consistent with the Convention's humanitarian objectives and obligations.

Youth Engagement

94. The CCM ISU also continued promoting youth engagement as an investment in the Convention's long-term effectiveness and normative resilience. Together with the Presidency and the United Nations, the CCM ISU co-organised the Youth Multimedia Contest, encouraging younger generations to engage with the humanitarian consequences of cluster munitions and the objectives of the Convention. These efforts helped broaden outreach, foster dialogue with new audiences and strengthen long-term ownership of humanitarian disarmament norms.

95. Together, these efforts reinforced cross-cutting considerations as practical tools for improving implementation rather than standalone workstreams. By integrating gender and diversity, environmental considerations and youth engagement across the Convention's implementation architecture, the CCM ISU helped strengthen the quality, inclusiveness and long-term sustainability of implementation support while ensuring that the Convention continues to evolve in response to emerging implementation challenges and opportunities.

II. Financial Report

A. Summary

96. The financial management of the CCM ISU throughout 2025 continued to be guided by the principles of transparency, accountability, sustainability and prudent stewardship of the resources entrusted by States Parties. Operating within the financial framework approved by the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties (12MSP), the CCM ISU managed available resources to preserve the implementation capacity required to support the Convention's priorities.

97. The reporting period was marked by continued financial pressures across the humanitarian disarmament, mine action and arms control sectors, reinforcing the importance of careful financial planning and disciplined resource management. Against this backdrop, the CCM ISU maintained the operational capacity necessary to support implementation across all thematic areas, assist the Presidency and the Convention's governance processes, manage the Sponsorship Programme and prepare for the Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties.

98. Financial decisions throughout the year were guided not only by budgetary considerations but also by strategic implementation priorities. Resources were allocated to safeguard operational continuity, strengthen institutional capacity and ensure that the CCM ISU remained able to respond effectively to evolving implementation needs while delivering the approved work plan.

99. The financial statements of both the CCM ISU Trust Fund and the Sponsorship Programme Trust Fund were independently audited by Mazars SA and found to comply with Swiss law. In accordance with the Hosting Agreement, the audited financial statements will be transmitted by the Director of the GICHD to the Presidency for subsequent circulation to all States Parties, reaffirming the Convention's commitment to transparency, accountability and sound financial governance.

B. Overview of Revenues and Expenditures

100. The approved budget of the CCM ISU for 2025 amounted to CHF 497'138. Contributions received from 69 States Parties totalled CHF 517'743 across the approved funding categories. Total expenditure amounted to CHF 444'395, reflecting prudent budget execution while preserving the implementation capacity required to deliver the approved work plan.

101. Throughout the year, financial resources were managed to preserve operational continuity, strengthen implementation capacity and support the priorities approved by States Parties. Expenditure remained aligned with these priorities while retaining sufficient flexibility to respond to evolving implementation needs and preparations for the Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties (13MSP).

102. The Working Capital Reserve remained stable at CHF 574'240, exceeding the level endorsed by States Parties at the Second Review Conference. Although no additional contributions were received during the reporting period, the Reserve continued to provide an important safeguard against temporary cash-flow disruptions, contributing to the CCM ISU's institutional resilience and operational continuity.

103. The Sponsorship Programme continued to facilitate inclusive participation in the Convention's meetings while supporting implementation by enabling affected States Parties and States with limited resources to contribute their expertise and implementation experience. During 2025, sponsorship decisions increasingly reflected implementation priorities, seeking to maximise the impact of limited resources by supporting participation where it could make the greatest contribution to implementation, cooperation and universalization.

104. The following sections provide detailed information on the financial performance of the CCM ISU during the reporting period.

C. Detailed 2025 Financial Report

105. The detailed financial information below provides an overview of the management of the CCM ISU Trust Fund, the Working Capital Reserve and the Sponsorship Programme. Together, these financial mechanisms enabled the CCM ISU to deliver the activities approved by States Parties while preserving operational continuity, institutional resilience and the implementation capacity required to support the Convention's priorities.

106. Financial management throughout the year was guided by the principles of transparency, accountability, sustainability and prudent stewardship. Budget implementation remained aligned with the priorities established by States Parties while retaining sufficient flexibility to respond to evolving operational requirements. By sustaining implementation capacity, supporting the Convention's governance processes and enabling tailored implementation support for States Parties, these resources directly advanced the Convention's humanitarian objectives.

107. The following sections provide detailed information on the financial performance of the CCM ISU Trust Fund, the Working Capital Reserve and the Sponsorship Programme during the 2025 financial year.

1. CCM ISU Trust Fund – Supporting the Implementation of the Approved Work Plan

108. The CCM ISU Trust Fund remained the main financial mechanism supporting implementation of the approved annual work plan. Throughout 2025, it enabled the CCM ISU to preserve the implementation capacity required to support the Convention's governance processes, provide substantive and technical assistance across all thematic areas, strengthen outreach and stakeholder engagement, manage the Sponsorship Programme and advance preparations for the 13MSP.

109. At the beginning of the reporting period, the Trust Fund held a balance of CHF 283'345. During 2025, 69 of the 110 invoiced States Parties contributed CHF 517'743. While the number of contributing States Parties remained broadly comparable to the previous reporting period, the overall level of contributions increased, reflecting States Parties' continued confidence in the Convention's implementation.

110. Overall expenditure in 2025 totalled CHF 444'395, representing expenditure CHF 52'743 below the approved budget. During the reporting period, the CCM ISU managed a period of staffing transition while maintaining implementation capacity and uninterrupted delivery of the approved work plan. These operational adjustments, together with prudent financial management and operational efficiencies across selected budget lines, are reflected in the notes on variances summarised in the table below. None affected implementation of

the approved workplan or the CCM ISU's capacity to provide timely implementation support to States Parties.

Table 1. 2025 expenditure versus approved budget with explanatory notes

<i>ITEM</i>	<i>2025 Approved Budget (CHF)</i>	<i>2025 Actual Expenditure (CHF)</i>	<i>Notes on variance</i>
Salaries	364 282	329 334	Staffing transition, recruitment process temporary replacement during sick leave.
Social charges	72 856	65 365	Lower statutory contributions resulting from staffing transitions.
Communication	20 000	10 379	Digital tools; streamlined website management, competitive procurement.
Travel	27 000	28 745	Implementation support travel; additional participants funded through earmarked Category 7(c) contributions.
Other implementation support costs	13 000	10 572	Efficient planning; use of existing facilities; in house capacity; prudent cost management.
Total	497 138	444 395	

Category 7(c) voluntary contributions

111. During the reporting period, nine States Parties made voluntary contributions under Category 7(c) of the CCM ISU Financial Procedures, totalling CHF 193'242, representing approximately 39 per cent of the approved annual budget.

112. Of the nine contributing States Parties, seven also fulfilled their contribution obligations under Categories 7(a) and 7(b), while two contributed exclusively under Category 7(c). In addition, one State Party contributed solely under Category 7(a).

113. While Category 7(c) contributions continue to strengthen the CCM ISU's capacity to deliver its mandate, the long-term sustainability of the Convention's financing arrangements depends on broad participation in the agreed financial procedure. The CCM ISU therefore remains committed to working with States Parties to promote a balanced, predictable and sustainable funding model that provides the financial certainty necessary to deliver high-quality implementation support.

114. Overall, the CCM ISU Trust Fund remained financially stable during the reporting period. Nevertheless, differing interpretations among States Parties regarding financial obligations continue to affect the balance between categories 7(a) and 7(b) of contributions and voluntary contributions under 7(c), underscoring the importance of strengthening predictable and collectively supported financing arrangements for the years ahead.

Table 2. Category 7(c) contributions in 2025*2025 VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS (category 7(c) of the CCM ISU financial procedures)*

Contributions	Australia	2 550
	France	920
	Ireland	13 837
	Italy	5 258
	Japan	3 326
	Philippines	28 043
	Spain	46 920
	Sweden	54 761
	Switzerland	37 627
Total		193 242

2. *CCM ISU Working Capital Reserve*

115. The Working Capital Reserve (WCR) remained unchanged in 2025 at CHF 574'240 as of 31 December 2025, remaining above the agreed minimum reserve of CHF 400'000. The Reserve provides financial stability and safeguards the continuity of CCM ISU operations in the event of temporary liquidity constraints. As no new contributions have been received since 2023, continued efforts to maintain this strategic reserve remain important.

3. *CCM Sponsorship Programme*

116. The CCM ISU continued managing the Sponsorship Programme with the administrative support of the GICHD as a strategic implementation support mechanism promoting meaningful participation in the Convention's work. During the reporting period, five donor States contributed CHF 70'466, supplemented by CHF 51'319 carried forward from 2024, bringing total available resources to CHF 121'785. Expenditure totalled CHF 76'211, with CHF 45'574 carried forward to 2026.

117. The Programme supported six delegates at the 2025 Intersessional Meeting and twenty-two delegates at the 13MSP. Across both meetings, sponsored participants represented fifteen States Parties, three Signatories and five States not party. One sponsored delegate did not undertake the planned travel, and the associated funds remained available for future sponsorship activities.

Table 3. 2025 CCM Sponsorship Programme expenditures and revenues

<i>EXPENDITURES</i>		<i>5 Account (CHF)</i>
Detailed Expenses	Travel costs	76 013
	General & admin. expenses	198
Total Expenditures		76 211
<i>REVENUES</i>		
Contributions		
	Australia	8 588
	Canada	26 480
	Norway	9 203
	Philippines	16 195
	Switzerland	10 000
Total Contributions		70 466
Contributions deferred from 2024		51 319
Total Revenues		121 785
Contributions deferred to 2026		45 574

GICHD In-kind Support

118. Under the 2014 Hosting Agreement between the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and the States Parties, the GICHD continued providing significant in-kind institutional support to the CCM ISU throughout 2025.

119. Valued at CHF 138'037, this support included financial administration, human resources, procurement, information technology, communications, conference services, office facilities and other corporate functions necessary for the effective operation of the CCM ISU.

120. By providing these shared services, the Hosting Agreement enables the CCM ISU to focus its financial and human resources on implementation support rather than administrative infrastructure, generating efficiencies for States Parties while strengthening institutional continuity, operational resilience and implementation capacity. Beyond its financial value, the hosting arrangement also contributes to institutional continuity, administrative reliability and sound governance, providing the operational foundation upon which the CCM ISU delivers implementation support to States Parties.

121. The continued partnership between the States Parties and the GICHD therefore remains a key component of the Convention's implementation architecture, ensuring that available resources are used efficiently to support implementation of the Convention.

Concluding Reflections

122. The reporting period demonstrated that sustained investment in the Implementation Support Unit translates directly into stronger implementation of the Convention. Throughout 2025, the CCM ISU continued assisting States Parties across all core obligations while strengthening the institutional systems, technical expertise and implementation support required to help States Parties translate their legal commitments into practical results.

123. The activities described throughout this report illustrate that effective implementation depends not only on the commitment of individual States Parties but also on the existence of a professional, responsive and technically capable implementation support mechanism. By strengthening knowledge management, improving analytical and technical support, expanding cooperation and promoting more inclusive and evidence-informed implementation, the CCM ISU continued reinforcing the Convention's implementation architecture and its capacity to respond to evolving priorities.

124. Careful stewardship of financial resources enabled the CCM ISU not only to maintain operational continuity but also to continue investing in the professionalisation of its working methods, institutional knowledge and implementation support systems. These investments strengthened the Unit's ability to deliver timely, consistent and high-quality assistance while ensuring that limited resources generated the greatest possible implementation value for States Parties.

125. As preparations advance for the Third Review Conference, sustaining this implementation capacity will remain essential to supporting the Convention's long-term effectiveness. Continued investment in the CCM ISU is therefore an investment in the Convention's implementation itself, enabling States Parties to build on progress achieved, respond to emerging challenges and translate collective commitments into measurable humanitarian outcomes.
