

Speaking notes

Updating on the ISU

by the
Director of the GICHD

At their Third Meeting in Managua (18 – 21 September 2001) the States Parties endorsed the Paper on Implementation Support for the Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines (APLC/MSP.3/2001/L.7).

After the Managua meeting and with the endorsement of the Council of Foundation of the GICHD, three steps were taken:

- Firstly, the conclusion of an Agreement between the President of the 3MSP and myself;
- Secondly, the elaboration of a budget for the Implementation Support Unit, and
- Thirdly, the actual setting up of the Implementation Support Unit and the appointment of its Manger.

The Agreement between the President of the 3MSP and the Director of the GICHD was signed in November. It established a formal contractual relation between the States Parties and the GICHD. The Agreement incorporates pertinent elements of the Managua mandate, as well as provisions on practical issues, mainly regarding finances and reporting. The Agreement has been distributed by the Nicaraguan Presidency to all States Parties. Anyone else interested in obtaining this document should contact the GICHD.

Immediately after the Managua Meeting a Fund for Voluntary Contributions has been established, and a budget was elaborated.

The budget is modest. It covers basically the additional cost caused by the establishment of the Implementation Support Unit. One reason for the budget to be small is that the GICHD continues to maintain the level of support it has given thus far, without charging it to the Fund For Voluntary Contributions. There is a budget document available for those interested in more details.

The actual establishment of the Implementation Support Unit was – as you know – the most time critical factor, in particular the choice of the right person to be head of the Unit. After having had consultations with the co-ordinating committee I

have appointed Mr. Kerry Brinkert, whom I would welcome and whom many of you know well. Delegations and Organisations were informed a couple of days ago when Mr. Brinkert actually started his work.

Shortly after the Managua meeting arrangements were made to put the logistics in place to start the work of the ISU. The offices for the ISU are located in the central part of the third floor of the OMM building. There is space for three offices, a documentation room, and for a working room for the co-chairs, co-rapporteurs and other persons wishing to work in the Centre on Mine Ban Convention issues. By the beginning of January 2002 the necessary construction and installation was finished as planned. I hope you did already or will find time to have a look at the ISU.

Let me close my short report with a call on you. Until now Australia, Belgium, Norway and South Africa have contributed to the Fund. The sum received so far covers some 30 % of the ISU budget. I ask those who are able to make a contribution to do so. If you need any further information please contact the Geneva Centre.

Martin Dahinden
Director GICHD