



STATEMENT ON THE 2019 ANNUAL REPORT AND PRESENTATION OF THE 5-YEAR (2021-2025) and 2021 WORK PLANS AND BUDGETS

Thank you Mr. President,

If I may, I will begin by giving a very short summary of the ISU's 2019 Annual Report which is available as document CCM/CONF/2020/4, before I present an overview of the ISU's 5-year Workplan and budget for the period 2021 to 2025 as presented in document CCM/CONF/2020/2. Thereafter, I will also summarize the ISU 2021 work plan and budget which is derived from the longer term document and is presented in document CCM/CONF/2020/3.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates;

During 2019, the ISU in line with its core mandate, provided the necessary administrative and substantive support in order for the Convention's Presidency to effectively carry out its mandate in leading the implementation of the Convention's objectives as outlined in the Dubrovnik Action Plan. This included support to Sri Lanka, in its role as president of the 9th Meeting of States Parties up to September 2019 and thereafter to Switzerland as the President of the 2nd Review Conference. As in previous years, the ISU provided the requisite support to the Convention's Coordination Committee members as well as to other States Parties to effectively implement the Convention. Particular support was given to states submitting Article 3 and article 4 extension requests to this Review Conference and as well as to the Analysis Groups considering these requests.

In addition, throughout the last year, the ISU continued to promote the Convention at different fora which included academic, professional and regional institutions or disarmament courses such the Geneva Center for Security Policy's "*International Disarmament Law*" course.

Mr President, Excellencies,

Regarding the financing of the ISU in 2019, only 49 out of the 103 States Parties invoiced, made contributions to the ISU Trust Fund which was fewer than the number of states that contributed in 2018. Nonetheless, the ISU budget was fully funded, having received just over five hundred and seventy-five thousand Swiss francs (CHF 575'000) against a budget of four hundred and seventy-five thousand, three hundred and sixty-two francs (CHF 475'362).



As is the usual practice, the surplus contributions together with the savings made during the year were carried over into 2020 to enable the ISU continue operations in the new year without interruption. Total ISU expenditure in 2019 amounted to a little under four hundred and thirty-two thousand francs (CHF 432'000) which was about forty-three thousand francs (CHF 43'000) less than budgeted. At the end of the year, the savings made of just over CHF 84'000 were also carried over into 2020. These savings were mainly as a result of lower than expected staff and travel costs.

I would like to report that the current status of the ISU Working Capital Reserve. In 2019, only one State Party made a contribution of about CHF 4,600 to the Reserve. Following the approval of the 9th Meeting of States Parties, the amount of one hundred and seventy thousand, three hundred and ninety-two francs (CHF 170,392) carried over since 2017 was transferred to the Working Capital Reserve bringing the total amount of restricted funds held at end of the year to five hundred and fifty-five thousand, eight hundred and thirty-seven francs (CHF 556,837). This exceeds the recommended optimum level of CHF 400'000.

In concluding the annual report, I wish to remind States Parties that the 2019 audit reports were issued on 19 May 2020 and deemed that the ISU Trust Fund and its Sponsorship Programme financial reports were in compliance with Swiss Law - as has been the case since the establishment of the ISU in 2015. In line with standing instructions, on 26 May 2020, the ISU circulated these audit reports electronically to all CCM States Parties for their information and record.

Mr President, I will now provide a brief overview the ISU's draft 5-year Workplan and budget covering the period 2021 to 2025 as presented in document CCM/CONF/2020/2. Thereafter, I will present the 2021 Workplan and budget which is derived from the 5-year workplan and is detailed in document CCM/CONF/2020/3. In accordance with the current ISU financial procedures adopted at the First Review Conference, both documents were reviewed and endorsed by the Coordination Committee and thereafter made available online to all States Parties 60 days prior to this meeting.

Mr President, Excellencies,

Both workplans are in line with the mandate of the ISU and will support the implementation of the yet to be adopted Lausanne Action Plan. Future annual work plans and budgets will include the decisions to be taken by this Review Conference. The proposed 2021-2025 work plan and its budget, articulates the main activities that the ISU will undertake in a manner consistent with its mandate and additional decisions taken at formal meetings of the Convention. The five-year work plan will focus on providing support to the Convention's presidencies and Coordination Committee in their efforts to discharge their respective mandates, and support all States parties



with the implementation of CCM provisions. The ISU will also continue to assist in the preparation and hosting of formal and informal CCM meetings as required.

Mr President,

As already mentioned, the 2021 work plan and budget is grounded on the yet to be approved 5-year work plan and budget. This budget estimate is based on the operational experience obtained by the ISU over the last five years. As such the ISU expects to be able to adequately undertake its tasks with an amount of four hundred and sixty-nine thousand, six hundred and eighty-six francs (CHF 469'686). You will note that this budget is slightly lower than the 2020 budget due to staff changes made last year which have translated into lower staff costs.

Specific activities to be undertaken by the ISU are detailed in the workplan and are consistent with its principal mandate which is to support the efforts of CCM States Parties to realise the goals of the Convention's Action Plan. In keeping with this mandate, the 2021 work plan will focus primarily on providing the essential implementation support to the Convention's office holders and all States Parties as required from time to time.

Particular attention will continue to be directed towards States implementing extension requests and assisting those that may need to submit such requests. The ISU anticipates to be able to provide in-person support to these States Parties once extensive travel is again possible.

Aside from these activities, all other tasks conducted will continue to be proportionate to the available financial resources and the cardinal need to keep costs low. The ISU will continue to provide the requisite level of support to States Parties although remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic. As always, I would like to remind that the full implementation of the work plans will continue to be entirely dependent on the availability of the necessary finances and an enabling environment as highlighted in the assumptions section of the draft work plan.

In this regard, before ending my presentation, I would like to give a quick update on the ISU's current financing situation. As of last Friday, 20 November, the ISU had received contributions amounting to around four hundred and sixteen thousand francs (CHF 416'000) from 51 States Parties which amounts to just over 85% of this year's annual budget of around four hundred and eighty-five thousand (CHF485'000). Usually by this time of the year, over 95% of the annual budget would have been received. The ISU is still expecting pledged contributions from three more States Parties which will hopefully enable the ISU meet its full budget this year.

In concluding, Mr President, allow me on behalf of the ISU team, and indeed speaking for myself, to sincerely thank all CCM States Parties and other key partners such as the GICHD, ICRC, and CMC, for the continued good cooperation since the establishment of the Implementation Support



Unit over five years ago. Without these good working relationships, we would not be able to effectively advance the objectives of the Convention.

I also want to thank Silvia and her team for the excellent collaboration over the years which has made our work flow effortlessly. Thank you also to the always hardworking ISU team members. Their diligence, especially during these extraordinary times, remain invaluable to the success of the Unit.

Lastly, I thank you, Mr President, Aline and the rest of your team for the excellent – and many times fun-filled - working relationship over the past year. It has been a pleasure.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.