

Third Review Conference of the Mine Ban Convention. Maputo 23-27-June 2014.

Norwegian intervention on Implementation support ISU Budget and workplan 2015

- This Review Conference marks that the Convention has been implemented for 15 years. Since 1999 States Parties and partners has demonstrated will and ability to tailor the implementation support machinery to the changing circumstances, in innovative and groundbreaking ways.
- The Convention has been a success and fifteen years of implementation has significantly changed the magnitude and structure of the remaining landmine problem. We are no longer facing a global humanitarian crisis caused by landmines, and the current major implementation challenges are located on local and national levels.
- As a consequence, we need to change the way we work to support the implementation of the Convention. We need to shift our priorities and resources from work in places like Geneva to where the actual implementation takes place.
- In our view, we need to reduce the present implementation support architecture, with large biannual general meetings, backed up by the ISU and a comprehensive committee system, as it does not seem to be the most effective way of meeting these challenges.
- The ISU is the core of the implementation support architecture, and its relevance rests with its ability to provide states parties with adequate assistance in their efforts to comply with their obligations. The ISU has a very good track record in doing this. Even so, in the coming period the ISU will need to adjust its working methods to meet the changing nature of the remaining problem.
- The current financial situation of the ISU, with a significant gap between revenues and costs, is not sustainable and reinforce the need for change. We appreciate the reductions made in the proposed budget for 2015, but question if they are sufficient and also whether cost cuts alone constitute the right line of action. If the present revenues of the ISU indicate the levels of financial contributions states parties are willing to provide to the work plan, then it would be irresponsible to adopt the proposed work plan and budget. From our side, we see an urgent need to recalibrate and reprioritize the work in order to match the existing resources with the most pressing implementation tasks in affected states. We therefore have to make a reservation to the proposed 2015 budget.

Thank you