



## **Coordinating Committee Meeting Thursday 15 March 2012**

### **President's Summary**

#### **1. Opening remarks**

The meeting was opened by its Chair, Ambassador Sun Suon of Cambodia, Chair, on behalf of H.E. Prak Sokhonn, the President of the Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties. In opening the meeting, the Chair reported that the President responded to Syria's new use of AP mines by issuing a press statement on 14 March. The Chair indicated that other States Parties may wish to follow the lead of the President and the ICBL in also expressing concern about this new use of mines. The Chair also reported that the President has followed up on the matter of resource mobilisation for the ISU by issuing letters to the vast majority of States Parties asking that they submit their contributions to the ISU.

#### **2. Previously unknown mined areas**

The Chair reminded the Coordinating Committee that at the previous meeting, it was recalled that the 11MSP noted that the Convention is silent on how to address situations where States Parties, which never have reported Article 5 obligations, discover previously unknown mined areas. It was further recalled that the 11MSP noted a need to develop a rational response to such situations which is firmly anchored in the object and purpose of the Convention and which does not undermine the legal obligations to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas as soon as possible. It was also recalled that the 11MSP requested that the President, supported by the Coordinating Committee, consult with all relevant stakeholders to prepare a constructive discussion on this matter at the May 2012 meetings of the Standing Committees with a view to recommendations on this matter being submitted for consideration at the 12MSP.

The Chair further reminded the Coordinating Committee that at the previous meeting, the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance (Indonesia and Zambia) indicated (a) that they have scheduled time for a "constructive discussion" during the afternoon session of their meeting on Tuesday 22 May, (b) that a paper of some sort would help frame the matter of newly discovered mines and to suggest a course of action for the 12MSP, and, (c) that a paper should both provide some context and propose, for the basis of discussion, a draft decision.

The Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance presented a draft paper that they had distributed to the Coordinating Committee in advance of the meeting. (See attached). The Co-Chairs indicated that in their paper they had put forward a set of draft decisions which could be discussed in May. Several Coordinating Committee participants expressed that view that the draft paper presented by the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance would indeed be an excellent basis for discussion at the May meeting of the Standing Committee on Mine Destruction.

### 3. Consideration of Meetings of the States Parties

The Chair reminded the Coordinating Committee that at the last meeting it was recalled that the 11MSP, having noted suggestions to consider whether the interactive character of the annual Meeting of the States Parties could not be enhanced and its duration shortened while improving its overall effectiveness, decided that the Coordinating Committee brainstorm on this item in the first half of 2012 and that the May 2012 intersessional meetings discuss it and submit, through the President, recommendations to the 12MSP in this regard. It was further recalled that the 11MSP agreed that should any action be taken by the 12MSP, it would lead to appropriate adjustments to the organisation of the MSP effective as from the 13MSP.

The Chair called upon the Director of the ISU to present a paper (attached) to prompt discussion by the Coordinating Committee on the matter of considering the functioning and length of Meetings of the States Parties (MSPs). In response, a number of points of view were raised, including the following:

- There is general satisfaction with how MSPS are currently organised. While some improvements could be made, revolutionary change was not required.
- In many respects, this Convention's MSPs are the model that could be replicated, for example, with respect to the integration of the participation of civil society organisations.
- Individual States Parties reporting on progress and challenges and exchanging experiences is important and requires a great deal of time. In fact, this is possibly the most important part of MSPs.
- While minimising the amount of use of time for general statements could be feasible, eliminating an agenda item for a general exchange of views would not be desirable. A general exchange of views is particularly important for States Parties which participate at a relatively high level and States not parties which may wish to engage in the work of the Convention.
- When MSPs take place in a mine-affected country, delegates benefit from the opportunity to see the real-life impact of mines and efforts to address this.
- Examination could be given to how different conventional weapons instruments deal with overlapping content, particularly victim assistance and cooperation and assistance.
- There may be value in examining how to avoid overlap between MSPs and meetings of the Standing Committees.

The Chair thanked the Coordinating Committee for brainstorming on this matter and indicated that, with the support of the ISU, he would bring back more structured thoughts at the next meeting of the Coordinating Committee.

### 4. Preparations for the May 21-25 meetings of the Standing Committees

Co-Chairs of each Standing Committee provided updates on their ongoing plans for their May meetings with a view to ensuring that materials are ready for distribution on 21 March.

- The Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention (Norway and Peru) indicated that they will place a special emphasis on States Parties that have retained the same number of mines under Article 3 for several years.

- The Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction highlighted that, in addition to asking States Parties to report on implementation, they are inviting States not parties to volunteer information.
- The Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance (Indonesia and Zambia) reported that they will invite Bosnia and Herzegovina and Chad to be the focus of small group discussions on 24 May.
- The Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance (Algeria and Croatia) reported that Iraq had accepted their invitation to be the focus of a small group discussion on 24 May.
- The Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Cooperation and Assistance (Albania and Thailand) indicated that they would convene a small group discussion on the matter of an information exchange tool on available assistance.

The ISU distributed data (attached) on the gender breakdown of States' delegations at recent meetings of the Convention. The ISU also indicated that the President, in inviting States and organisations to the meetings of the Standing Committees, would recall the commitments that the States Parties have made concerning gender and diversity.

The Coordinator of the Sponsorship Programme (Australia) reported that the Sponsorship Programme Donors' Group had met and agreed to a list of States that it would invite to request sponsorship to participate in the May meetings.

#### 5. Proposal to revise the reporting format

The Chair recalled that on 29 February, the Coordinator of the Article 7 Contact Group (Belgium) reported that it had been preparing a draft revised reporting format and was giving particular consideration to reporting formats that concern cooperation and assistance. The Chair noted that the Contact Group Coordinator had distributed its draft for comment prior to the meeting. As the Contact Group Coordinator was unable to attend the meeting, there was no discussion on this matter.

#### 6. Update on ISU activities and finances

The Director of the ISU reported on the finances and activities of the ISU (attached), noting in particular that since the last update Algeria had provided a contribution in support of the ISU's 2012 work plan.

#### 7. Any other business

The ISU, on behalf of Switzerland, reported that Switzerland as host of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties, in collaboration with the 12MSP President-Designate, had convened a meeting on 14 March with various organisations that normally contribute to MSP planning to discuss initial preparations for matters such as an opening ceremony and side events.

The ICBL informed the Coordinating Committee that it had issued a press release expressing concern about new mine use by Syria and asked States Parties to join it in speaking out on this issue.

The Coordinating Committee expressed its condolences to Belgium and to the Netherlands on the tragic loss of life that had occurred in the road accident involving school children from these two States on March 13 near Sierre, Switzerland.

8. Next meeting

The Chair indicated that, on the advice of the ISU, the Coordinating Committee should consider meeting in April in order to deal with outstanding matters pertaining to preparations for the May meetings of the Standing Committees. The Chair further indicated that he would inform Coordinating Committee participants of the exact date in due course.

## ANNEX I

### Newly Discovered Mine Areas

Presented by the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance

[DATE]

#### Background:

The 11MSP noted that the Convention is silent on how to address situations where States Parties, which have never reported Article 5 obligations, discover previously unknown mined areas. The Meeting further noted a need to develop a rational response to such situations which is firmly anchored in the object and purpose of the Convention and which does not undermine the legal obligations to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas as soon as possible.

In this context, the meeting requested that the President, supported by the Coordinating Committee, consult with all relevant stakeholders to prepare a constructive discussion on this matter at the May 2012 meetings of the Standing Committees with a view to recommendations on this matter being submitted for consideration the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties.

For the sake of consistency, any decisions on this matter should also apply to States Parties which, after reporting compliance with Article 5.1, discover mined areas under their jurisdiction or control. It should be recalled that the “declaration of completion” adopted at the 7th Meeting of the States Parties and Action #22 of the Cartagena Action Plan adopted at the Second Review Conference are existing procedures which are necessary but not sufficient as they were intended to deal with small areas containing very limited numbers of anti-personnel mines discovered after completion of Article 5 obligations, which could be destroyed in a very short time.

The Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance would suggest that decisions on this matter should take into account the following understandings:

- Decisions should, as noted by the 11MSP, be “firmly anchored in the object and purpose of the Convention” and “not undermine the legal obligations to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas as soon as possible.
- Decisions should regularize the matter of States Parties, which, more than a decade after entry into force, report mined areas (as defined by the Convention) for the first time. It should similarly deal with, in a uniform manner, those States Parties that discover new mined areas after implementation has been completed and deadlines have passed.
- Regularizing this matter would imply that there would be a process to ensure that all States Parties that have reported “mined areas” (as defined by the Convention) have a deadline if newly discovered areas cannot be addressed quickly (i.e., prior to the next Meeting of the States Parties or Review Conference).
- Decisions should emphasize the importance of transparency with States Parties discovering new mined areas immediately informing all States Parties and also reporting as required in accordance with Convention obligations and any related decisions of the States Parties.

With these understandings in mind, the Co-Chairs propose, for the basis of discussion at the May 2012 meeting of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, the following draft decisions.

**Draft 12MSP decisions regarding newly discovered mined areas:**

The Meeting agreed that:

1. If, after its deadline to implement Article 5.1 has expired, a State Party discovers a mined area (as defined by Article 2.5 of the Convention) under its jurisdiction or control that is known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, the State Party should:
  - a. immediately inform all States Parties of such a discovery; and
  - b. proceed to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in the mined area as soon as possible.
2. If the State Party believes that it will be unable to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in the mined area before the next Meeting of the States Parties or Review Conference (whichever falls earlier), it should submit a request to that Meeting or Review Conference for a deadline for completing the destruction of such anti-personnel mines, for a period of up to five years. The request should be submitted through the President as soon as possible and where feasible, at least 3 months before the next Meeting of the States Parties or Review Conference.
3. Each request shall contain:
  - a) The requested deadline, bearing in mind:
    - (i) the obligation of each State Party to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible; and
    - (ii) that the State Party should request only the time necessary to complete the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in the mined area (where this can be determined prior to the submission of the request) or to obtain clarity regarding the remaining challenge, produce a detailed plan and submit a further request.
  - b) A detailed explanation of the reasons for the proposed request.
4. The States Parties mandated to analyze requests for extensions submitted under Article 5 will analyze requests submitted pursuant to this decision, using relevant existing agreed practices and methods.
5. The Meeting of the States Parties or the Review Conference shall, taking into consideration the factors contained in paragraph 3 and the analysis of the request pursuant to paragraph 4, assess the State Party's request for a deadline and make a decision on the request in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and rules of procedure for Meetings of the States Parties / Review Conferences.
6. States Parties concerned by this decision should continue to fulfil their reporting obligations under Article 7 of the Convention, including the obligation to report on the location of all mined areas that contain or are suspected to contain anti-personnel mines under their jurisdiction or control and on the status of programs for their destruction. Each State Party should also continue to provide updates relative to these and other commitments at meetings of the Standing Committees, Meetings of the States Parties and Review Conferences.
7. A deadline granted pursuant to the process established by this decision may be renewed upon the submission of a new request in accordance with paragraphs 2, 3, 4 and 5 of this decision. In

requesting a further deadline a State Party shall submit relevant additional information on what has been undertaken in the previous deadline period.

## **ANNEX II**

### **Consideration of Meetings of the States Parties**

#### **For discussion by the Coordinating Committee**

##### Background:

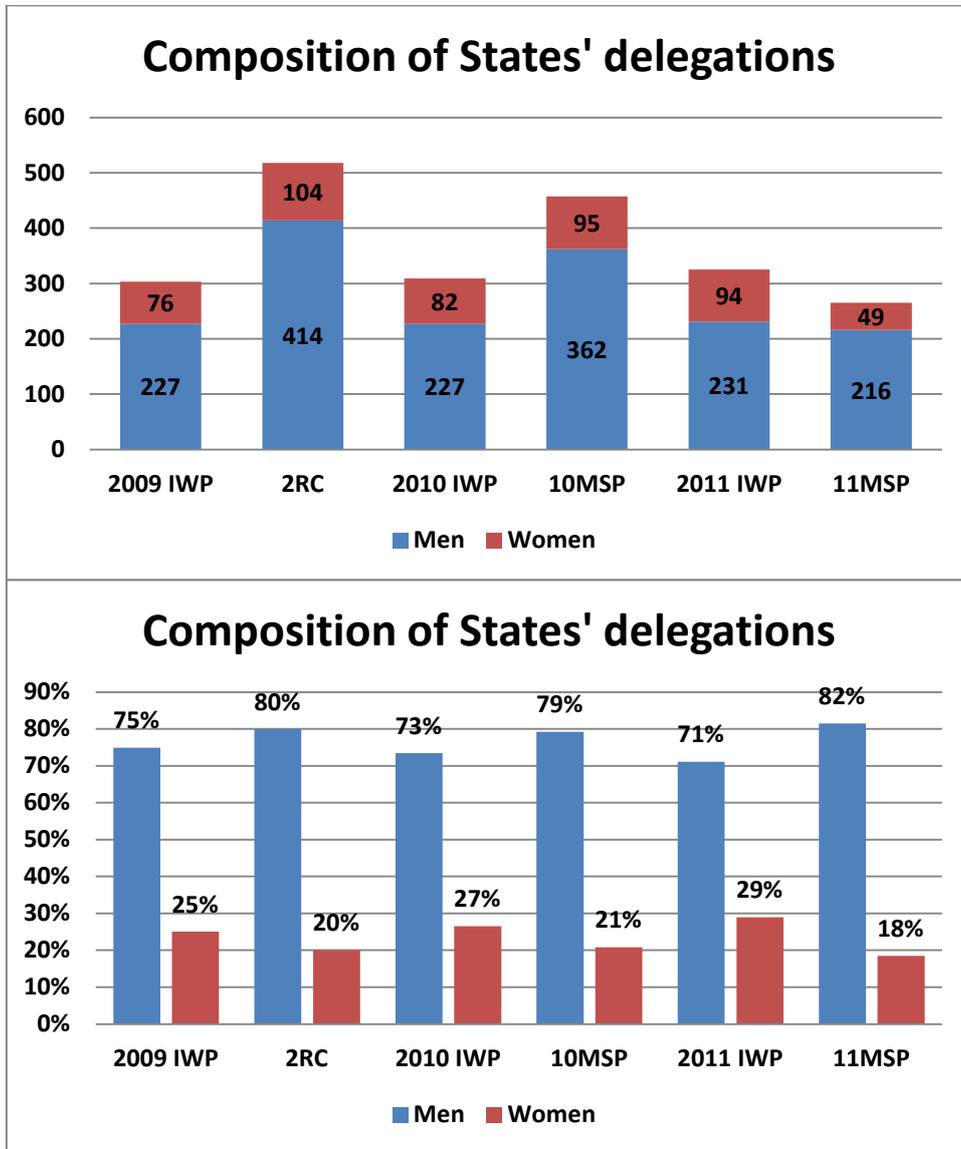
The 11MSP, having noted suggestions to consider whether the interactive character of the annual Meeting of the States Parties could not be enhanced and its duration shortened while improving its overall effectiveness, decided that the Coordinating Committee brainstorm on this item in the first half of 2012 and that the May 2012 intersessional meetings discuss it and submit, through the President, recommendations to the 12MSP in this regard. It was further recalled that the 11MSP agreed that should any action be taken by the 12MSP on this basis, it would lead to appropriate adjustments to the organisation of the MSP effective as from the Thirteenth Meeting.

##### Questions for consideration:

- What do different actors (e.g., mine-affected States Parties, States Parties in position to provide assistance, other States Parties, non-governmental and international organizations, etc.) value about Meetings of the States Parties?
- Is there general satisfaction with how Meetings of the States Parties are organized or is some fundamental change required?
- Even if there is general satisfaction with how Meetings of the States Parties are organized, is there room for improvement and can enhancements be made?
- Are there particular agenda items that could be dealt with differently to improve and enhance Meetings of the States Parties?
- What are the benefits and the risks associated with shortening the duration of Meetings of the States Parties?

ANNEX III

Composition of States' delegations at recent meetings



**ANNEX IV**

**UPDATE ON THE ACTIVITIES AND FINANCES OF THE IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT UNIT**

**KERRY BRINKERT  
DIRECTOR OF THE IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT UNIT**

**COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
15 MARCH 2012**

**Background:**

1. On 2 December 2011, the States Parties approved the ISU's 2012 work plan and budget. This update is intended to inform the Coordinating Committee of activities undertaken between 29 February and 15 March 2012 in implementing this work plan and to highlight financial matters.

**Activities:**

***“Prepare, support and carry out follow-up activities from formal and informal meetings under the Convention including Meetings of the States Parties, Review Conferences, Amendment Conferences, intersessional meetings, Standing Committees, the Coordinating Committee and the Article 5 Extension Request Analysing Group”***

2. The ISU continued to assist the UNODA Geneva Branch in finalising the Final Report of the Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties.
3. The ISU participated in a meeting organized by 12MSP host Switzerland in cooperation with the President-Designate to discuss organizational matters concerning the 12MSP.
4. The ISU had numerous contacts with individual sets of Co-Chairs to assist and advise them on ongoing preparations for the May meetings of the Standing Committees. ISU support to Co-Chairs included preparing draft letters for Co-Chairs to send to various States inviting particular forms of participation in the meetings of the Standing Committees.
5. The ISU supported the GICHD on various administrative aspects related to the GICHD's hosting of the meetings of the Standing Committees.

***“Provide substantive and other support to the President, President-Designate, Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs in their work related to all such meetings”***

6. The ISU provided ongoing substantive support to the Presidency on a range of matters concerning the Convention.
7. As noted, the ISU interacted on numerous occasions with individual sets of Co-Chairs to assist and advise them on preparations for the May meetings of the Standing Committees, including by continuing to provide advice to individual Co-Chairs regarding follow-up on specific decisions of the 11MSP.
8. The ISU began substantive preparations for the May Victim Assistance Parallel Programme, including by developing a table listing disability / victim assistance plans that have been developed by affected States Parties and by obtaining copies of plans not already in the ISU's possession. The ISU has sent this table to Landmine Monitor experts for their input.

***“Provide advice and technical support to States Parties on the implementation and universalization, including on the Sponsorship Programme, of the Convention”***

9. The ISU provided advice to the Republic of the Congo in follow-up to having deployed an expert consultant to assist this State Party in better understanding the nature and scope of its Article 5 implementation challenge, in developing a plan to address this challenge and to prepare the ground for an Article 5 extension request, should that be necessary. The ISU continued liaising with Norwegian People’s Aid on this matter.
10. The ISU continued to engage other States Parties that will or may submit extension requests in 2012.
11. The ISU exchanged views on numerous occasions with the Convention’s Special Envoy on Universalization regarding efforts he may undertake in 2012.
12. The ISU continued to provide advice to the Coordinator of the Article 7 Contact Group on reporting matters.
13. The ISU submitted a 2011 report, financial projections for 2012-2013 and a proposed set of decisions for the Intersessional Work Programme to the Coordinator of the Sponsorship Programme. The ISU subsequently provided support to a meeting of the Sponsorship Programme Donors’ Group and disseminated a summary of the actions taken at that meeting.

***“Facilitate communication among the States Parties, and promote communication and information regarding the Convention towards States not Party and the public”***

14. The ISU supported the Presidency in preparing a press release related to Syria’s new use of anti-personnel mines.
15. The ISU continued to maintain the Convention’s presence on leading social media.

***“Keep records of formal and informal meetings under the Convention, and communicate, as appropriate, the decisions and priorities resulting from such meetings to States Parties and other stakeholders”***

16. The ISU continued the effort to ensure that the volume of documents and statements generated at the Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties are made available on the Convention’s website and in the Convention’s Documentation Centre.

***“Liaise, and coordinate as appropriate, with relevant international organisations that participate in the work of the Convention, including the ICBL, the ICRC, the UN and the GICHD”***

17. The ISU collaborated with the ICBL, UNMAS and the UNODA on “lend your leg for a mine-free world campaign” launch activities on 1 March, including by supporting the Presidency’s participation in these events.
18. The ISU met with the ICBL and Geneva Call to exchange information related to the universalization and implementation of the Convention.
19. The ISU provided inputs to GICHD staff who are involved in ongoing efforts to revise the IMAS concerning reporting on mined land released / cancelled through various different means.

20. The ISU provided inputs to GICHD staff involved in a project to examine how data entered into the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) can be better used for mine action planning.
21. The ISU provided inputs to GICHD staff regarding victim assistance reporting under the Convention as well as under the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to enable the IMSMA to be used to support various reporting requirements.
22. The ISU participated in a meeting of the UN's mine action "area of responsibility".

#### **Other matters**

23. The ISU's 2012 work plan notes that, in keeping with past practice, the ISU is able to execute other activities, in a manner consistent with its mandate, if additional funds are made available to fully fund these efforts (including funding any additional human resource costs). The work plan further notes that subject to availability of additional funding, the 2012 ISU core work plan and budget may be enhanced and expanded in a variety of specified areas. The work plan states that the ISU will report to, and update, the Coordinating Committee as well as the May 2012 meeting of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, on the adjustments that such additional funding may be called for to the core work plan.
24. The ISU is awaiting word regarding an proposal it has submitted to Australia valued at AUD 140,000 which would see the ISU carry out two research projects related to victim assistance. The first initiative will examine the role of mine action programmes and national authorities in victim assistance, particularly with regard to the sustainability of efforts. The second initiative will advance research undertaken by the ISU in 2011 on the role of development assistance in supporting victim assistance.
25. On 3 November 2011, the Director of the ISU presented a draft implementation plan for a possible EU Council Decision in support of the Convention. It was noted that an EU Council Decision was a wonderful opportunity for the ISU to do more of what it is mandated to do. The Coordinating Committee expressed general appreciation for the commitment of the EU to proceed with a Council Decision and to provide the funding necessary to the ISU to implement this decision. In addition, it was noted that the ISU was sensitive to the fact that while this is an opportunity for the ISU to take on additional activity, it must not be a drain on existing ISU priorities and that any additional human resource need would need to be funded by the EU.
26. On 2 March, the ISU Director traveled to Brussels to meet with EU principals regarding the draft Council Decision to discuss next steps. On 8 March, the ISU Director submitted a draft detailed budget elaboration to the EU for consideration. The ISU is waiting to hear back from the EU regarding whether adjustments or additional elaboration is required. In the meantime, the ISU will proceed in seeking to meet with actors that would be seen to be key implementing partners particularly the ICBL, ICRC, GICHD and UN Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights as well as other members of the UN Mine Action Team. The ISU and the EU discussed the idea of a joint briefing of delegations the week of 21 May and the possibility of commencing with implementation on 1 July.

#### **Financing:**

27. Given that work to finalise 2011 accounts continues, the projected 2011 deficit carried over to 2012 now stands at CHF 39,260. To date in 2012, contributions totaling CHF 241,766 have been received from the following States Parties: Algeria, Argentina and Norway. In addition, a contribution agreement is in place with Australia and one is being finalised with Denmark.

Agreements with these two States Parties should result in approximately CHF 233,600 being made available to the ISU in 2012.

28. The ISU's work plan projects expenditures in 2012 totaling CHF 925,837. Taking into account projected expenditures, the negative carry-over from 2011, and contributions / commitments to date, the ISU still requires CHF 489,731 to fully fund its work plan in 2012.
29. On 1 March, the ISU held a briefing on the ISU 2012 work plan and budget for the 29 States Parties that have been recent contributors to the ISU.
30. The ISU supported the Presidency in producing and distributing ISU resource mobilization letters, which have now been sent to approximately 90 percent of the States Parties.
31. A considerable amount of ISU staff time continues to be consumed by preparing documentation to obtain funds from interested States Parties and to report on the use of these funds.

**ISU Financing 2012**

**(As of 15 March 2012)**

<b>Carry-over from 2011</b>	-CHF39'260
<b>Contributions received 2012</b>	
Algeria	CHF5'935
Argentina	CHF5'013
Norway	CHF230'818
Total contributions received 2012 as of 29 February	CHF241'766
<b>Contribution agreements in place / being finalised</b>	
Australia (based on estimated exchange rate)	CHF185'000
Denmark (based on estimated exchange rate)	CHF48'600
	CHF233'600
2012 projected expenses	CHF925'837
Contributions received / existing+likely agreements / carry-over	CHF436'106
<b>Amount still required in 2012</b>	<b>CHF489'731</b>