

Agenda Item 10 – Issues related to the Implementation Support Unit.

The report of the Implementation Support Unit has been issued as an official document for this meeting under the symbol CCW/MSP/2023/4 and is available on the UNODA Meetings Place webpage of the 2023 Meeting of High Contracting Parties. The report summarizes the activities of the CCW Implementation Support Unit from 1st November 2022 to 15 September 2023.

During the reporting period, the Implementation Support Unit – or ISU – continued providing support to the 2022 officeholders and the CCW meetings and processes that took place in November 2022.

As part of its support to officeholders and 2023 meetings and processes, the ISU coordinated with regional groups in relation to nominations for vacant officeholder positions, briefed incoming officeholders on their responsibilities and supported them in carrying out their duties and functions. The ISU also provided support to the preparation and organization of all CCW meetings in 2023, including the Annual Conference to Protocol V, Amended Protocol II and the Meeting of High Contracting Parties.

The Unit also assisted the officeholders in their outreach to High Contracting Parties on national annual reporting responsibilities and to non-High Contracting Parties on universalization, including by providing substantive background information and analysis.

For the meetings of the 2023 Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on emerging technologies in the area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS), the ISU provided extensive substantive and organizational support to the Chairperson and to the High Contracting Parties. Among other things, the Unit organized and supported numerous informal substantive consultations, as well as consultations on procedural matters. At the request of the Chairperson, the ISU also produced a non-exhaustive compilation of definitions and characterizations of LAWS put forward by CCW High Contracting Parties over the years.

Furthermore, the ISU assisted the Chairperson of the 2022 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties in the preparation of, and consultations on, the draft General Assembly resolution on the CCW. During the reporting period, the ISU also

prepared universalization letters that were signed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, calling on non-High Contracting Parties to join the instruments.

We have previously provided information on the financial issues related to the Convention and its annexed Protocols under item 12 of the agenda, so will not go into details here. The ISU also supported the work and functioning of the CCW Sponsorship Programme, and details on that work will be summarized by the Coordinator under item 13 of the agenda. Additionally, the work of the ISU in relation to the national annual reports will be reported under item 14 of the agenda of this Meeting.

During the reporting period, the ISU contributed to numerous UNODA and UNOG communication and outreach efforts, including to ODA social media channels, with a view to raising awareness on the CCW and its Protocols and related activities. Among other things, the ISU engages in regular communication with States not parties to the CCW, international and regional organizations, civil society and academia to raise awareness of and provide information on the activities of the Convention. The Unit and its members are regularly invited to participate in several outreach activities with partner organizations within and outside of the UN system, on topics related to the Convention and its Protocols.

In 2024, the ISU will seek to expand its mandated work of supporting the High Contracting Parties, on request, in the implementation of the CCW and its Protocols and contributing to the promotion of the universalization of the CCW and its annexed Protocols, by providing tailored advice and support to High Contracting Parties and developing tools and services to strengthen the practical implementation of the Convention and its Protocols at the domestic, regional and international levels. The ISU will also continue to work closely with the officeholders in these areas, in support of their mandates, and will strengthen its work with other United Nations partners, civil society and academia, to support High Contracting Parties in achieving the goals of the Convention and its Protocols.

To do so, the ISU will rely on the continuing support of the High Contracting Parties. We would like to invite High Contracting Parties in a position to do so to consider providing voluntary contributions to the ISU to enhance its ability to carry out its mandated tasks. Voluntary contributions have already enabled the conduct of

activities in support of the mandate of the ISU and could further enable the Unit to re-activate and strengthen areas of work.

We would like to point out that the ISU does not have a dedicated full-time administrative support staff post. Administrative support is essential for the efficient day-to-day running of the ISU and for supporting the CCW bodies. Therefore, we would like to invite the High Contracting Parties to consider providing voluntary contributions towards this end.
