



Permanent Mission of  
the Republic of Latvia to  
the United Nations Office in Geneva

Re: Non-paper on future of the CCW ISU arrangements

1 August 2018

Informal consultations of the CCW HCP on ISU issues took place on 28 June 2018. They were informed by the Food-for-Thoughts paper of 4 June 2018. Two dozen delegations were present and shared their views on the issue. As a result of that exchange, the following options are proposed for further consideration:

#### *ISU functionality*

All delegations reiterated their support for the scope of ISU functions as agreed by the HCP at the 2009 HCP meeting and contained in the document CCW/MSP/2009/5, namely:

*The CCW ISU will operate in the most efficient way and will perform the following tasks:*

- (a) Provide administrative support to and prepare documentation for meetings agreed by the meetings of the High Contracting Parties to the CCW, Amended Protocol II and Protocol V;*
- (b) Facilitate communications among High Contracting Parties and, upon request, with international organizations;*
- (c) Serve as a focal point for submission of information by and to the High Contracting Parties related to the Convention and its annexed Protocols; develop and maintain the CCW website and the CCW databases as directed by the annual Meetings of the High Contracting Parties;*
- (d) Support the High Contracting Parties, on request, in the implementation of the CCW and its Protocols and assist the Secretary-General of the United Nations in the discharge of his/her responsibilities pursuant to Article 11 (2) of Protocol V, Article 14 (4) of Amended Protocol II and the CCW Compliance mechanism;*
- (e) Contribute to the promotion of the universalization of the CCW and its annexed Protocols and support the High Contracting Parties in the implementation of the CCW Plan of Action for the Universalization of the CCW and its Protocols and the CCW Sponsorship Programme;*
- (f) Perform any other duty as mandated by the High Contracting Parties of the CCW or its Protocols.*

*The Head of the ISU will report to the annual Meetings of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on the operation of the ISU. The Unit's performance will be evaluated by the annual Meetings of the High Contracting Parties to the CCW. The number of staff employed and the functions of the ISU will be reviewed by the Fourth Review Conference.*

Being embedded in the UN secretariat, the ISU is also arranging relevant conference services for the CCW HCP and its Protocols' meetings as outlined in rule 15 of the CCW Rules of Procedure.

*Budgeting of ISU activities*

The HCP expressed continued support for the existing ISU budgeting model whereby ISU staff costs are calculated as a part of the CCW overall activities under the convention and its protocols. A change of the current budgeting practice would create difficulties for several HCP.

*ISU models*

Four ISU models were discussed and the following two were retained:

**ISU is dismantled and UNODA re-assumes the institutional role of supporting CCW**, funded by the assessed contributions by the HCP, under an agreed set of rules that define the roles and responsibilities of the HCP and UNODA in ensuring the continued viability of the CCW (ST/SGB/2013/4 – Rule 105.11 a);

**Status Quo, clarified** by an agreed set of principles which defines the roles and responsibilities of HCP and UNODA in relation to ISU, with an understanding that the issue of cash flow needs to be resolved.

Two other models were considered unrealistic, although some HCP would have favored one of two. Therefore, the other two proposed models were not retained for further consideration.

	<i>UNODA performs ISU functions</i>	<i>ISU Status Quo clarified</i>
<b>Advantages</b>	Staff flexibility as ISU workload may vary during the year, allowing for the use of all ODA resources in peak periods as and when required.	Personalized and fully dedicated service to the HCP and the CCW office-holders
	Possibility to tap fully in the UNODA resources when needed	Development of specific CCW related expertise and in-debt knowledge
	Securing the institutional memory of the CCW and its process	Securing the institutional memory of the CCW and its process.
	Fully dedicated service to the HCP and the CCW office-holders	
<b>Disadvantages</b>	Absence of staff working exclusively on the CCW requires more coordination to ensure the provision of continuous service and attribution	ISU staff has uneven distribution of activities over the annual cycle
	More coordination required to prevent and effectively address possible overlaps of disarmament treaty body meetings in Geneva	Absence of direct access to UNODA staff resources
		Heavy dependency on cash flow situation that may impact contractual cycle as well as retention and staff well-being.

*Specific issues related to the ISU Status Quo clarified model*

It was suggested to sign ISU staff contracts at the moment of the highest inflow of funds which corresponds to the middle of the calendar year.

In light of the decision contained in paragraph 37 of document CCW/MSP/2009/5, the ISU performance (as an entity) for services provided to High-Contracting Parties should be reviewed by a specially created Review Committee that would consist of representatives from the HCP and UNODA. The HCP could delegate all CCW elected officers to serve in the Review Committee that would work according to the Terms of Reference (to be developed) and report to the meeting of the CCW HCP annually.

Terms of Reference (ToR) should be developed in order to clearly set the roles and responsibilities of the HCP and UNODA in relation to the CCW ISU, and in accordance with UN rules and regulations. These ToR should be agreed by the CCW HCP meeting.

Should these proposals meet consensual support of the HCP, the concrete formulations for the draft decision will be presented to the next round of informal consultations.



Janis Karklins, Chair designate, Ambassador of Latvia