



Mr Chairman,

At our Sixth Review Conference, States Parties agreed to the creation of an Implementation Support Unit last December. The ISU was given a specific mandate, its tasks being explicitly enumerated in *Para 5 of Part III* of the Report of the Review Conference.

The European Union welcomed the establishment of the ISU and commends the work the ISU has accomplished already in the six months since its inception.

Bearing in mind the limited number of staff - only three full time officials and financial resources, we believe the ISU should focus on its core tasks, as stipulated by its mandate. Within this mandate, the EU has identified some specific activities that the EU and other regional groupings or States Parties could provide additional funding for.

This funding aims at making the most efficient use of the agreed mandate and to help the three-person ISU to fulfil its assigned tasks in an optimum way.

The EU non-paper entitled 'Supporting the BTWC ISU', which we present to this MSP, provides a list of options States Parties might consider. These are options in the area of implementation, cooperation and assistance, CBMs, Universality and outreach.

The activities suggested all intend to increase the effectiveness of the BTWC in a pragmatic way at the working level.

We have already made good use of the background papers, compilations and notifications the ISU produced and are looking forward to continue our cooperation with all States Parties and with the ISU, using its full potential.

I thank you for your attention.