

Closing remarks

President of the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties
Intersessional meetings
8 June 2018

Dear Colleagues,

The time has now come for us to leave you, but before I formally close these intersessional meetings, I would like to thank all the delegations for their active participation and their valuable contributions to this year's intersessional meetings.

These past two days have gone by very quickly and I feel we would need more time to dedicate to this very useful exchange of information.

It is clear from your interventions and from discussions on the margins of the intersessional meetings that we could easily spend more time discussing all the different subjects that relate to the implementation of the Convention.

I am pleased that we heard from so many of you on the work you have carried out, your successes and the challenges you have encountered. I am pleased to see that the intersessional meetings are still a place where we can exchange information and experiences informally and in full transparency.

Our meetings come to an end today but our work continues. In this respect, it is important that we honour the commitments we have made and fulfil our common objective to put an end to the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines.

Let us remain united and reinforce our partnerships and cooperation efforts so that this Convention continues to be the success that it has been so far.

We must ensure respect for this Convention, its history and its norm, and ensure that it is not undermined or violated. As States Parties, we must stand united on this front.

Some of the decisions of the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties required that some States Parties report on various topics during the course of 2018 and I am grateful for the efforts of these States Parties to conform to the decisions that relate to them.

I am also grateful for the work undertaken by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Serbia, Sudan and the United Kingdom in preparation for their extension requests.

I regret that we have not been able to receive an extension request from Ukraine this week and I look forward to a resolve of this matter before the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties.

It is really an honour for me to preside over this Convention and to be able to work with all of you to take the Convention forward.

We still have a considerable task ahead of us and we have set ourselves ambitious goals but together we have enough commitment and resources to make it possible.

We know what we have to do, we have the right knowledge and the right methodologies to address the remaining contamination and to put end to the suffering caused by anti-personnel. Let us just do it. We also know that support is available if we need it.

I would like to thank all delegations for participating this week, your engagement and continued efforts as well as your commitment to provide updates on your work are critical to our collective success.

Let me thank once again the Committees for their invaluable work. We look forward to seeing how your preliminary observations on the implementation of the Convention mature as we prepare for the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties.

I would like to thank the ISU for its unwavering support to the Convention and its machinery and for the valuable advice provided to myself and my team in preparation for these meetings. I would also like to thank the GICHD for taking care of the administrative arrangements related to these meetings and thank Switzerland for supporting the costs of these meetings.

On behalf of all of us, I thank the team of interpreters for their excellent work this work.

We expect to see you all later this year in Geneva to celebrate the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties.

For those travelling, we wish you a safe return home, for those in Geneva, we look forward to meeting you in the near future.

With these words, the 2018 intersessional meetings are now closed.

Thank you very much.