**Notes for ICRC intervention on article 3**

**Standing Committee on General Status**

**Friday, 24 June 2011**

Thank you Mr. Co-chair,

The ICRC would like to thank all delegations that have provided updates on their plans for and use of mines retained under Article 3, in fulfilment of the commitment they made in **Actions #56 and 57** of the Cartagena Action Plan. We welcome the announcement made by Belarus today that it will decrease the number of mines retained under Article 3. This announcement is all the more important as the number of mines retained by Belarus under Article 3 has been stable for a great number of years.

We are pleased to note that there seems to be a noticeable trend towards the reduction of retained mines by the majority of States that had filed their article 7 reports this year. We reviewed reports filed so far and believe that it is important to note in this regard, that 5 States (Brazil, Chile, Greece, Japan and Latvia) have substantially reduced their numbers of retained mines either in 2009 or 2010. We welcome these decisions and commend Latvia to have come down to zero mines retained under Article3 and Brazil for retaining for the first time less than 10.000 mines under Article 3, leaving only 2 States Parties holding above 10.000 mines under this provision.

However, at least 20 States reported stable numbers years after years and 3 States (Tanzania, Lithuania and Yemen) reported either in 2009 or in 2010 an increase of their stocks. It would be useful if the reasons for these increases were made known at the 11th Meeting of States Parties.

As agreed in Actions points 56 and 57 of the Cartagena Action plan, we urge those 20 states or so that have maintained the same number of mines for years, without having reported on the use of such mines for permitted purposes, to assess whether the number retained constitute the minimum number absolutely necessary and to destroy mines in excess of this number. We hope to hear from these States during the meeting of States Parties this year.