

## **Opening of the week of meetings of the Standing Committees**

**H.E. Gazmend Turdiu**  
**President of the Tenth Meeting of the States Parties**

**20 June 2011**

Excellencies, dear friends,

It is my pleasure to join with the entire Convention community for the first time since those snowy days six months ago at the 10MSP.

It is inspiring that, two decades after the movement to ban AP mines was born in the border regions of Cambodia and in so many other mine affected areas, the movement remains strong and deeply committed.

It is a testament to the creativity of our movement that we always look to improve and innovate.

The arena to test new ideas and to innovate has been, since 1999, this Convention's Intersessional Work Programme.

For example, it was work conducted here that produced landmark understandings on victim assistance, which have since proven to have been applicable in other instruments of international law.

And it was through the work of this Convention where a community of States advanced and embraced practical technical and non-technical means to more rapidly release suspected hazardous areas.

This week, we will once again innovate.

Inspired by the Cartagena Summit on Mine-Free World, the 10MSP established a new Standing Committee on Resources, Cooperation and Assistance.

This week this committee will meet for the first time and I look forward to this innovation leading to progress as concerns cooperation and assistance.

Another innovation this week concerns the experimentation that will take place on Thursday.

The decisions of the 10MSP instructed the Coordinating Committee to organize this week to allow for new ways to more intensively focus on national contexts or to otherwise support progress in the application of the Cartagena Action Plan.

Therefore, on Thursday, we will shift from the plenary to small group settings to explore cooperative means to support implementation.

As this truly is an experiment, please provide me and the Co-Chairs with your feedback to see if what we are trying this week makes sense for the future.

The combination of plenary meetings, small group meeting and wealth of side event activity means that we will be busy for the next five days.

I therefore suggest that we get down to work as soon as possible. But before doing so, I would like to thank the Co-Chairs for their excellent preparations and the ISU for its support both the Coordinating as a whole and to individual delegations.

Finally, let me thank the GICHD and its Director, Stephan Husy, for investing great resources in hosting the Intersessional Work Programme.

Stephan – the now 11 years of history of the GICHD support the Intersessional Work Programme has been instrumental and we are grateful for your commitment to the Convention.