

**ICRC intervention  
“Developing a Platform for Partnerships”**

**Standing Committee on Resources, Cooperation and Assistance  
25 May 2012**

The International Committee of the Red Cross would like to congratulate the co-Chairs on their work so far this year in this relatively new Standing Committee, which is already generating and leading debate on important topics that could assist States Parties in fulfilling their commitments under the Convention.

We found the small group discussion yesterday on “developing a platform for partnerships” to be very valuable. In that forum, and though it was not the focus of the discussion, traditional donors were able to share information about what they require from affected states to be able to provide mine action assistance, highlighting for example the need for good Article 7 and Article 5 reports and extension requests. A number of examples also emerged of cooperation between States Parties that has gone outside the traditional donor-beneficiary relationship, where the skills, knowledge, experience and in some cases equipment of one State Party have been shared with others, often at a low financial cost. Such initiatives have probably been under-utilised to date and as experience grows among affected States Parties, they could be expanded in future in the true spirit of cooperation and assistance.

The ICRC supports the idea of an information exchange tool, which could include information both from States able to provide assistance (e.g. under topics such as “equipment”, “training”, “facilitation” or “financial assistance”) and those seeking such support for mine action. Contact details and links to already existing information would also be important, while examples of good practices and lessons learned to date could also be posted.

In our view, this tool would be best established within the ISU, under the oversight of the co-Chairs and the Coordinating Committee. Its establishment would require an initial input of human resources, then a limited budget to maintain it over time. We would urge States in a position to do so to consider providing the initial human and financial resources needed to establish this valuable tool.

As noted by several participants in yesterday’s discussion, an information exchange tool can only be successful if its scope is clearly defined (and does not duplicate initiatives in other fora), it is user-friendly, kept up-to-date (which will require a commitment from all involved) and is indeed used by the States Parties. Such a tool also cannot replace bilateral assistance and affected States Parties must continue to actively explore all avenues for international cooperation and assistance, while continuing to explore all possibilities at the national level.

Finally, we take this opportunity to draw attention to the ICRC Special Mine Action Report 2011, which we have circulated this morning. This Report sets out the ICRC’s assistance programmes in the fields of weapons contamination and victim assistance including work done through the Physical Rehabilitation Programme and Special Fund for the Disabled. Please do not hesitate to ask us if you would like more copies or have any questions about the Report.