

Statement by the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention (Argentina and Italy) on the selection of Co-Rapporteurs for the period 2007-2008

23 April 2007

It has been the established practice that the States Parties take decisions regarding Standing Committee Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs at the annual Meetings of the States Parties.

And it has been our tradition that the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention undertake the task of consulting with a view to identifying a list of nominees to serve as Co-Rapporteurs.

In undertaking these consultations past Co-Chairs have kept in mind principles that have become customary to us – principles like ensuring a regional balance, a balance between mine-affected and other State Parties, and a balance between the need for rotation and the need for continuity.

It is our intention as Co-Chairs to again proceed in this established manner with a view to developing a list of prospective Co-Rapporteurs for presentation to the States Parties in coming months. In order to enable us to do this, we ask that interested States Parties express their interest to one of us, in writing, as soon as possible.

Those States Parties which are interested in serving as Co-Rapporteurs between the Eighth and the Ninth Meetings of the States Parties are reminded that if tradition prevails they would be making a two-year commitment to responsibilities.

That is, it has been our practice that after serving one year as Co-Rapporteurs States Parties are subsequently elected to serve as the Co-Chairs of their respective Standing Committees.