

## **The selection of Co-Rapporteurs for the period 2003-2004**

### **Statement by the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention**

**7 February 2003**

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 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 donor 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 in time for presentation during the May meeting of the Standing Committee. In order to meet this time-line, we ask that interested States Parties express their interest to one of us as soon as possible.

Finally, we wish to note our understanding that our expectations for Co-Rapporteurs who would serve during the 2003-2004 Intersessional Work Programme would be slightly different than in the past given that the culmination of the upcoming Intersessional Programme will be a Review Conference rather than an annual Meeting of the States Parties.

It is our understanding that at the Review Conference States Parties may wish to review and make adjustments to the implementation mechanisms (e.g., the Intersessional Work Programme) that they have created. Therefore, it is our further understanding that appointment of Co-Rapporteurs for the 2003-2004 should be made without prejudice to the decisions that States Parties may wish to take at the Review Conference with respect to these Co-Rapporteurs assuming further roles in the period following the Review Conference.