

Update on the Coordinating Committee

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Chaiyong Satjipanon,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand**

9 February 2004

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is my honour to have been entrusted as Chair of the Coordinating Committee. All of you may recall that at the Fifth Meeting of the States Parties in Bangkok, we all have recognized the value and importance of the Coordinating Committee as one of the effective, transparent and open mechanisms in carrying our Convention forward. In this very spirit, I am pleased to report to you the Coordinating Committee's functioning and activities in the period following the 5MSP.

Since the conclusion of the 5MSP, the Coordinating Committee has met three times – in October and November under the Chair of my predecessor, Ambassador Laxanachantorn Laohaphan, and in January under my own chairmanship. At each meeting, we were not simply listening to reports from Co-chairs of the four Standing Committees and Coordinators of the three Contact Groups about the progress they had made but also engaged in lively dialogue about how we could achieve effective preparation for the Intersessional Work Programme in terms of its format, sequencing and time allocation. As we always keep in mind the principles of practicality and efficiency, we therefore have decided to adjust the previously five-day meeting into a four-day framework, followed by a preparatory meeting for the First Review Conference. Given that in June, we will again revert to five days of meetings, we will then be flexible with time allocations and the sequencing of meetings, using the experience of this week as our guide.

As the 5MSP also requires us to continue the practice of making available summary reports of Coordinating Committee meetings, those of you who may be interested can find them on the GICHD's website, that is www.gichd.ch.

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

In my statement this morning, I have mentioned to you about work of the Resource Mobilization Task Force in approaching the World Bank for its consideration of mine action in light of socio-economic development. The

progress on this issue has always been updated at the past Coordinating Committee Meetings. And I am pleased to inform you that the effort of the Task Force has resulted favourably. I have just received a response from the World Bank, saying that "We concur with the view that mine action is not simply a humanitarian issue but also an issue of socio-economic development--one that affects many of our member countries. We also welcome the setting up of the Resource Mobilization Task Force to ensure that the development objectives will occupy an important place on the agenda of the Convention's operation." I am also pleased to announce that the President of the World Bank has designated his Vice President of the Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development Network as a focal point regarding the matter. Mr. Vice President and his team are also pleased to meet and discuss with our Task Force members at a mutually convenient time. And please rest assured that I will not forget to keep all of you updated about the outcome of our discussion with the World Bank team.

Friends and Colleagues,

Work and success of the Coordinating Committee so far have resulted not only from cooperation among our members but also from dedicated efforts of the Implementation Support Unit. Therefore, I wish to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Kerry Brinkert, Manager of the ISU, and his team, for their valuable support to the work of the Coordinating Committee and to the Convention itself.

Thank you.