

**Statement delivered by Ambassador Wolfgang Petritsch of Austria  
President-Designate of the First Review Conference**

**22 June 2004**

Mr. Co-Chair: In my capacity as President-Designate of the Review Conference, I would like to direct some brief comments to the mine-affected States Parties.

Friends: I am extremely pleased with the participation in this meeting.

I have a big job this year: I must develop with the States Parties a draft review and action plan for the Nairobi Summit.

Doing this would be impossible without the information provided by the mine-affected States Parties themselves.

You have invested a great deal of time in developing national plans and preparing presentations. I have listened closely and am impressed with what I have heard.

- States Parties – like **Mauritania, Rwanda** and **Cambodia** – have indicated that they have developed plans in a manner consistent with their Convention deadlines.
- Others like **Zambia** have stated that they can fulfill their Article 5 obligations well before their deadlines.
- And then others – with the most recent cases being **Djibouti** and **Honduras** – have reported that they have fully implemented Article 5. I congratulate Djibouti and Honduras – your efforts illustrate that progress truly has been made.

However, the Review Conference is also about challenges that remain. You have outlined several challenges in an effective manner:

- For example, my friend-of-the-president, Mr. Munguambe of **Mozambique**, has noted the need to mainstream mine action into broader development plans.
- **Jordan** and **Rwanda** – amongst others – effectively communicated that we must not forget the need for cooperation and assistance: It is within reach for these States Parties to fulfill their obligations, but further support is required.
- And several States Parties – like **Afghanistan, Colombia, Sudan** and **Tajikistan** – to name just a few – have demonstrated that some mine affected countries face extremely wide-spread and complex landmine problems.

Let me close by encouraging those which have not yet shared information on their problems, plans, progress and priorities – particularly those which have not yet provided an initial or updated Article 7 report – to do so as soon as possible.

Mine clearance will be one of the most – if not the most – significant challenges facing the Convention in the five-year period following the Review Conference:

- It is therefore essential that your experience and your voice be reflected in the Nairobi Summit's Review and Action Plan.

Thank you.