

## **Notes for ICRC intervention**

**SC-GSO  
Friday 17 June 2005**

### **Preparations for the Sixth Meeting of the States Parties**

Thank you co-chairs.

The ICRC welcomes the discussion paper prepared by Austria and Croatia. We fully support the conceptual framework it proposes for the Sixth Meeting of the States Parties in Zagreb.

Following the first Review Conference at the end of last year – the Nairobi Summit on a Mine-Free World – the Convention has entered a new phase. During its first five years, the work of the Convention was guided by the non-binding President's Action Plan. Now the work is to be guided by the Nairobi Action Plan, formally adopted at high political level by all States Parties at the Review Conference and covering all the work needed in the next five years.

The focus now needs to be 100% on implementation, through measuring progress, identifying needs and mobilising the will and resources to meet those needs. Most of the challenges ahead are directly related to specific themes, contexts, plans and resource issues, especially in relation to mine clearance deadlines and victim assistance. They cannot be addressed through general debates. It is therefore appropriate that general statements at future Meetings of the States Parties be kept to a minimum so that the work can focus on key challenges and how to meet them.

Most progress in the coming 5 years will be made not by announcing our successes, though this is of course important, but by admitting our shortcomings and organising to overcome them. We welcome the fact that this approach is reflected in the discussion paper and urge all delegations to focus their presentations for Zagreb on specific themes, challenges, needs, plans and progress. 2009 may seem far away, but it is important to remember that there are only 3 intersessional meetings and 4 Meetings of the States Parties between now and 2009 when the first deadlines for clearance will fall. We need to make best use of this time to ensure deadlines for clearance will be met and that assistance to mine victims is enhanced.