

Notes for ICRC intervention

Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention Monday 13 June 2005

Universalization

As stated by you, Mr. Co-Chair, in your introductory remarks to this discussion, the Nairobi Action Plan recognizes that a world free of anti-personnel mines is only achievable if all States join the Convention.

Universalization of the Convention remains a high priority for the ICRC. We are continuing to actively encourage non-States Parties to join the Convention, in our dialogue with governments at the domestic level as well as in regional and international fora. We welcome the steps taken by Ukraine, Vanuatu, Latvia and Bhutan, announced today, to be in a position to ratify the Convention by the Sixth Meeting of the States Parties.

We are also continuing, in our dialogue with armed non-State actors, to urge respect for international humanitarian law and to encourage respect for the anti-personnel mine ban norm. In this connection, we welcome the efforts made by States Parties, the ICBL and Geneva Call, among others, aimed at encouraging armed non-State actors to cease the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines.

We salute the announcement by Sri Lanka that it will submit a voluntary Article 7 report. The ICRC will be co-organising with Sri Lanka later this year a workshop on the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), which Sri Lanka has recently joined. We hope this will be a stepping stone to an eventual accession of Sri Lanka to the Ottawa Convention.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank Canada for the leadership role it has played in universalization efforts, notably by chairing of the Universalization Contact Group and supporting regional and national events aimed at promoting the Convention.