



***Intersessional Meetings of the Standing Committees
Geneva, 2-6 June 2008***

***Standing Committee on the General Status and
Operation of the Convention***

***Agenda Item: Update on Article 9, Adopting
National Legislation***

COMMENTS BY

Jordan Delegation

Co-Chairs,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished guests,
Dear friends,

I would like to begin by extending Jordan's thanks to the Government of the Netherlands for its support to Jordan's national mine ban law and legislation process. I am very proud to announce that Jordan's National Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Law was passed by parliament on April 1, 2008.

I would like to give you a brief description on Jordan's preparation of the legislation as well as the channels that it passed through in order for it to be passed by Jordan parliament as law.

In September, 2005 the National Committee for Demining & Rehabilitation formed a committee with a number of concerned ministries and departments to draft the national anti-personnel mine ban legislation and law, in accordance with Article 9 of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

The committee, whose members included legal advisers and representatives from the Ministry of Justice, General Intelligence Dept., Military Judicial Institution, University of Jordan, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and NCDR held; over a period of several months, regular meetings to outline and lay down a legal framework in which all aspects of mine action are regulated in accordance with NCDR and Mine Ban Convention articles and provisions, basing it on existing laws adopted by other mine-affected State Parties.

NCDR then approached the ICRC and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) with the first draft of the legislation for their recommendations and input, after which their amendments were incorporated into the draft. H.R.H. Prince Mired then handed over the National Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Draft Law to the Jordanian Prime Minister in May, 2006. The national legislation was then referred to the Legal Committee for study

and recommendation; subsequently it was passed by the Cabinet of Ministers in November 2007. It was then referred to and approved by the Parliament on January 17 and subsequently by the Senate on February 12, 2008.

Following the endorsement of His Majesty King Abdullah, Jordan's National Anti Personnel Mine Ban Law was passed by parliament and came into effect on April 1, 2008.

The National Mine Ban Law has also been translated from its original version in Arabic into English. NCDR now plans on carrying out an outreach program to explain the spirit and content of the new law to different government and non-governmental entities interested in mine action and humanitarian law.

We hope that our experience with our national legislation will be a good example for other countries to draw upon, and that it will provide additional opportunities to increase awareness on the mine ban convention regionally as well as on a national scale.

On a final note, if you would like a copy of Jordan's National Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Law we have some copies at hand. It is also available on NCDR's website at www.ncdr.org.jo.

Thank you.