

## **ICRC Intervention**

### **Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention Monday 2 June 2008**

#### **Universalization**

Thank you Mr. Co-chair,

On behalf of the International Committee of the Red Cross, let me begin by welcoming the interventions this morning from three States not parties to the Mine Ban convention. In particular, we are encouraged to have heard from the Marshall Islands and Laos PDR. We hope that these countries will keep on reviewing their policies and could be convinced that it is possible to overcome the mentioned obstacles. We hope to count them soon among the Mine Ban family.

Mr. Co-chair, the adherence of all States to the Mine Ban convention remains an important goal for the ICRC. Since the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States parties, we did not spare efforts to promote the universalization of the Convention during official visits of the President of the ICRC in non states parties, during participations by ICRC colleagues in regional meetings organised for example first by Indonesia in February this year and then by Malaysia in April, as well as in bilateral contacts that we have with national authorities of States not parties. We thank Indonesia and Malaysia for the leadership they have shown in organising these workshops in their region of the world and for having invited the ICRC to participate.

Let me end by mentioning that we also recently contributed an article promoting the Convention and its achievements on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the convention in a major US publication, Arms Control Today. This was aimed at US policy makers in the hope of informing more widely the American public and key players of the achievements of this convention. Copies are available on request.

I thank you Mr. Co- chair.