

**Meetings of the Standing Committees established by the States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**

**Opening remarks – 2 June 2008**

**His Royal Highness Prince Mired Raad Al-Hussein of Jordan  
President of the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties**

Excellencies, dear friends:

It is my pleasure to address you for the first time since the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties in Jordan.

It was a proud moment for me and for all Jordanians involved to welcome you to our country and to see the incredible energy that fuels ongoing efforts to implement our Convention.

On the one hand it seems like just yesterday when we gathered on the shores of the Dead Sea.

On the other hand, in just over six short months so much has transpired:

- New and profound challenges associated with destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines have emerged;
- Several States Parties with deadlines for releasing mined areas have submitted requests for extensions; and,
- Less than three weeks ago, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities entered into force, providing both guidance and further impetus for us to act in fulfilling our responsibilities to landmine survivors.

The meetings this week provide us with a chance to take stock of what has happened and to begin planning for that which comes next at the 9MSP and beyond at the Second Review Conference.

There was a great deal of commitment and creativity exhibited when we last met. We dearly need to see the continued application of this as we continue with our important work.

Our task remains great and our agenda this week is full.

Therefore, let us get down to business.

I wish you all the best for a successful week.