



**Meeting of the Standing Committees established by the States Parties to
the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (21 – 25 June 2010)**

Opening speech – 21 June 2010

*Ambassador Stephan Husy
Director of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining*

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, dear Colleagues,

It's a pleasure to welcome you again to a Meeting of the Standing Committees. This is the first important "post-Cartagena" gathering and I am glad to see you all here in Geneva for an intensive week.

Some of you may recall that the Intersessional Work Programme was established at the First Meeting of the States Parties held in Maputo in May 1999. The GICHD was requested to host the meeting of what was called at that time the Standing Committees of Experts. Since then, the Intersessional Work Programme has been adjusted and is currently under review. What has remained unchanged over the years is the strong commitment of the GICHD to provide administrative and logistical support, such as conference facilities, documentation, secretariat services and more recently interpretation. Since 2000, the same commitment applies to the administration of the sponsorship programme which includes travel services as well as financial management of the dedicated trust fund.

This week has been well prepared by the Coordinating Committee, with the support of the Implementation Support Unit. The ISU is currently evaluated as well, and the outcome of this review is of great importance for the GICHD. As you know, in 2001 States Parties mandated the GICHD to establish an

implementation support unit and to set up a voluntary trust fund to finance its ongoing activities.

All in all, the origins and the development of the GICHD are intrinsically tied to the APMBC and its implementation process. I am convinced that the combination of both, political and legal implementation support on the one hand, and mine action expertise on the other hand is unique and could serve as a model for other legal instruments.

Let me conclude by inviting you all to the traditional GICHD reception tomorrow at 18.00 on the top floor of this building and by wishing you a successful week.