



Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer
of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
MINE CLEARANCE, MINE RISK EDUCATION AND MINE ACTION TECHNOLOGIES**

CO-CHAIRS' NOTES TO MEETING PARTICIPANTS

14 May 2003

In the 4MSP's President's Action Programme, it was stated that during this intersessional period, "a priority should be placed on providing mine affected States Parties with sufficient opportunities to share information on their plans and needs for assistance." This is significant given that by the 2004 Review Conference, it will be important to know both the extent to which advances have been made in implementing Article 5 and the challenges that will remain in the period leading to the expiry of the Convention's first time lines for mine clearance in 2009. In this context, the Co-Chairs were extremely grateful that so many States Parties in February seized the opportunity to share information and to clearly indicate national ownership.

The May meeting of the Standing Committee again will see an emphasis placed on providing the 45 mine affected States Parties to the Convention with the chance to communicate matters related to the "**4P approach**", that is:

- **Problems** related to mined areas and the humanitarian impact of these areas;
- **Plans** that have been developed to clear mined areas, including the extent to which mine action has been incorporated into broader national development and poverty reduction planning and strategies;
- **Progress** made in meeting the obligations of Article 5; and,
- **Priorities** for assistance to support the implementation of national mine clearance plans.

To support these States Parties' preparations for the May meeting, the Co-Chairs have developed a suggested framework for preparing updates to meetings of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies. (See Document #9.)

In addition to serving as an opportunity for the mine affected States Parties to ensure that their voices are heard, the Standing Committee meeting will provide a chance for a full discussion on cooperation and assistance efforts. All States and organizations are encouraged to provide updates on their efforts. In addition, the Co-Chairs have scheduled an agenda item which is designed to specifically highlight assistance and cooperation between mine affected States Parties.

Finally, in follow-up to the February meeting of the Standing Committee, an update will be provided on progress made and ongoing work in mine action technologies.

To assist the Co-Chairs in developing speakers lists for the points on the agenda, participants are invited to indicate their desire to speak in advance by contacting the Implementation Support Unit (email : isu@gichd.ch ; fax : 41-22-906-1690).