

**Co-Chairs' statement on the selection of Co-Rapporteurs for the period 2003-2004  
16 May 2003**

My fellow Co-Chair and I would like to provide a brief update on our consultations to provide to the States Parties a list of prospective new Co-Rapporteurs to serve during the 2003-2004 Intersessional period.

You will recall in February that we made a statement noting that it has been the established practice that the States Parties take decisions regarding Standing Committee Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs at the annual Meetings of the States Parties.

In addition, we noted that it has been tradition that the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention undertake the task of consulting with a view to identifying a list of nominees to serve as Co-Rapporteurs. In undertaking these consultations Co-Chairs have kept in mind principles that have become customary to us – principles like ensuring a regional balance, a balance between mine-affected and donor State Parties, and a balance between the need for rotation and the need for continuity.

Since February, we have proceeded in this established manner with a view to developing a list of prospective Co-Rapporteurs in time for presentation at this meeting.

Based upon the consultations we have undertaken and the interest that has been expressed to us, we are pleased to inform you that we feel ready to propose that the States Parties, at their meeting in Bangkok, accept the following as new Co-Rapporteurs during the 2003-2004 Intersession period:

- For the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention: **South Africa** and **New Zealand**.
- For the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration: **Nicaragua** and **Norway**.
- For the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies: **Algeria** and **Sweden**.
- And for Stockpile Destruction: **Bangladesh** and **Canada**.

It is our understanding that we can recommend to the Fifth Meeting of States Parties to designate these countries to serve as Co-Rapporteurs for the next intersessional period.

It is also our understanding that our expectations for the Co-Rapporteurs who would serve during the 2003-2004 Intersessional Work Programme would be slightly different than in the past given that the culmination of the upcoming Intersessional Programme will be a Review Conference rather than an annual Meeting of the States Parties.

Finally, we wish to reiterate that States Parties may wish to review and make adjustments at the Review Conference to the implementation mechanisms (e.g., the Intersessional Work Programme) that they have created. Therefore, it is our further understanding that the appointment of Co-Rapporteurs for the 2003-2004 should be made without prejudice to the decisions that States Parties may wish to take at the Review Conference with respect to these Co-Rapporteurs assuming further roles in the period following the Review Conference.