

**Ottawa Convention Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention 16 May 2003**

**United Kingdom intervention on Article 2**

On the definition of anti-personnel mines in the Convention, the UK does not accept that certain so-called sensitive fuses for anti-vehicle or anti-tank mines are banned by the Convention. We have indicated that we are prepared to address any humanitarian issues that might arise from such fuses in the CCW or other appropriate fora. To take forward such discussions in a positive way the requirement is for evidence on the nature of humanitarian concerns, which has generally not been forthcoming.

To return to so-called legal arguments on the definition of anti-personnel mines is a retrograde step. Differences on detailed interpretation of treaties is a normal situation. We have worked closely on our legal interpretation of the definition, as we did at the Oslo conference, and are confident in our interpretation. If we are to move forward on fuses, we need to look at the substantive humanitarian issues and not get bogged down in a fruitless search for an elusive consensus.