

Update on the activities of the Coordinating Committee

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Chairperson of the Coordinating Committee**

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Check against delivery

At the 2004 Nairobi Summit on a Mine Free World, the States Parties adopted the Nairobi Action Plan.

This document was not intended to collect dust on the shelf.

Rather, it is our five-year plan to guide implementation efforts during the period between the First and Second Review Conferences.

It suggests that there should be continuity in our work, with efforts in one year building incrementally upon the efforts of the previous year.

And it suggests we should be strategic, focusing our attention on practical measures to realize progress by the States Parties in the pursuit of the Convention's aims.

These are principles that have been at the centre of Croatia's work as Chair of the Coordinating Committee.

We are now in the second of five years of applying the Nairobi Action Plan.

To build on efforts undertaken in the first year of Action Plan's application, we convened a meeting of the Coordinating Committee on January 30th.

At that time we urged Co-Chairs to develop concrete objectives to achieve measurable progress in time for the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties.

I am pleased to report that by the time of the Coordinating Committee's second meeting on March 6th, Co-Chairs had made major advances in thinking strategic about the fulfillment of their responsibilities.

Many of these Co-Chairs pursued ambitious efforts to meet their objectives, including the distribution of letters to relevant States Parties suggesting ways these States Parties could best take advantage of the Intersessional Work Programme to advance implementation.

A third meeting of the Coordinating Committee was held on May 2nd for the purpose of ensuring that all necessary preparations were in place to ensure successful meetings this week.

Friends: The intersessional period lasts from the time one Meeting of States Parties ends and the other begins.

Consequently, intersessional work should not be one five-day period in May but last for an entire year.

Therefore, the Coordinating Committee will continue to meet in coming months to ensure, the context of its mandate, “(the coordination of) matters relating to and flowing from the work of the Standing Committees with the work of the Meetings of the States Parties.”

Finally, in keeping with past practice, the Coordinating Committee has operated in a transparent manner including by the Presidency ensuring that summaries of Coordinating Committee meetings are made available on the web site of the GICHD.

Thank you.