

Closing Remarks

Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction (Italy and Zambia)

**Geneva
25 May 2009**

In closing, the Co-Chairs recognise that while some commendable progress has been made since the 9MSP, a lot more needs to be done particularly by States Parties that remain non-compliant with the implementation of Article 4. Equally, States Parties that are yet to submit initial transparency reports are called to do so in accordance with the Convention's spirit of openness.

As one of the main elements of the Convention, continued non-compliance threatens its very essence. This trend could also undermine success achieved so far. There is no provision for extension requests under this Article therefore efforts must be made to ensure swift compliance. In this regard, the Co-Chairs wish to reiterate that a State Party's commitment to the Convention is best demonstrated through deliberate and explicit efforts in completing implementation.

The Co-Chairs remain committed to working closely with States Parties in the time before the Second Review Conference to ensure that destruction plans are explicit and time bound for States Parties that are yet to declare completion while those in need of providing initial reports are assisted in providing these before November.

In some of the cases cooperation and assistance at different levels will be critical in ensuring compliance. Therefore, in accordance with Nairobi Action #12, the Co-Chairs appeal to all States Parties and Friends of the Convention in a position to assist States to whom Article 4 is relevant, to do so as a matter of urgency.

Thank you.

THE MEETING IS ADJOURNED.