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**Dixième Assemblée des Etats Parties  
de la Convention sur l'interdiction de l'emploi, du stockage, de la  
production et du transfert des mines antipersonnel et sur leur  
destruction**

**Déclaration prononcée par Monsieur l'Ambassadeur Juerg Lauber,  
Représentant permanent adjoint (Affaires multilatérales) et Représentant permanent auprès de la Conférence de désarmement  
Chef de délégation suppléant**

**Coopération et Assistance Internationale**

**Genève, 30 novembre 2010**

*Seul le texte prononcé fait foi*

Mr. President,

Assistance and cooperation is the key ingredient to reach the noble goals of our Convention. The first decade of the treaty's implementation underlined the critical role of the flow of financial, material and human resources. The second decade in the life of our convention has started with a worrisome trend of diminishing assets. But the tasks ahead are still very significant and will require sustained efforts. At the same time new priorities have emerged.

It has been a hallmark for this Convention to react in a flexible manner to challenges arising. Scarce resources are not a new phenomenon. We have so far managed well to facilitate cooperation and assistance in informal settings. A number of initiatives, most recently the efforts by the Norwegian presidency, have borne fruit. However, we are of the view that a more coherent, consistent and sustainable approach is needed.

Switzerland is also very keen to engage in a debate on how the working methods in this Convention can be adapted in order to facilitate a more focused resources discussion, to enable new partnerships, to ensure better cooperation, and make our overall efforts more effective.

We thank Zambia for the proposal to establish a new Standing Committee on International Cooperation and Assistance. The aim of such a Standing Committee to serve as a forum for a coordinated exchange of information and views relevant for projects certainly reflects our experience and conclusions on certain shortcomings over the past years. This particularly refers to an optimised, predictable and long-term allocation of resources available.

Switzerland therefore supports the proposal to establish a new Standing Committee on Assistance and Cooperation. We are convinced that as the mobilisation and use of resources will remain a core challenge to overcome, the assistance and cooperation discussion should be moved to the plenary, where it will be at the centre of our attention and where a regular and focused exchange can be sustained.

However, Switzerland is also aware of the work load generated by an additional Standing Committee, particularly if it is a Standing Committee on a cross cutting issue with a general relevance also beyond the Convention itself. We therefore believe that the establishment of a new Standing Committee should be embedded in the framework of a general review of the work programme of the intersessional meetings. We therefore welcome the proposal by the presidency to consider ideas on the number of Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Cartagena Action Plan provides an excellent recipe for future action that prepares the ground for this kind of advanced implementation. This is particularly true with regard to a long-term perspective: The implementation of the actions is probably best approached on the base of multi-year plans and strategies on the donor's side. Simultaneously, an undiminished long-term commitment on the side of the affected countries up to "the last mile" will be indispensable.

Co-ordination and partnerships in support of article 5 implementation should be further strengthened. The dialogue between countries with article 5 obligations and the countries able to assist should come more focused and must be deepened. As the offered resources allocated by donors and the needs of affected countries may differ, a continuous and precise exchange on needs and available resources in a common forum is needed.

We should also not forget the fact that some parts of affected population lives in areas, which are not under governmental control, therefore it remains important to extend the co-operation to non-state actors, in fulfilling action #43 of the Cartagena Action Plan.

We also see increased calls for more clarity on the outcome and the impact of our efforts, this considering the expected decline in international funding for mine action. New ways of measuring the efficiency and of assessing our endeavours in order to constantly improve operations seem more and more important. In the past years, Switzerland benefited from a close cooperation with national authorities, UN agencies, international organisations and civil society. It has showed us how important the constant assessment of progress by all included partners is, in order to bring internationally cooperating actors to a coordinated success. This will make, after all, the difference on the ground.

Thank you.