

**Tenth Meeting of States Parties to the
Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines
Geneva, 29 November-3 December 2010**

ICRC Statement on the Review of the Intersessional Work Program, Friday 3rd Dec.

We would like to begin by thanking Ambassador Susan Eckey and her team for managing a thorough consultation process on this issue, including in particular the May consultation that identified the wide range of issues that may now be addressed in a new Standing Committee on International Cooperation and Assistance.

In many ways, the "informal" Standing Committees established by States Parties have become increasingly formal in parallel with the success of the Convention itself and the high level of interest and commitment that has been maintained for the past 11 years. This is a success in itself. However, it is important to recall that the Standing Committees were originally established to provide a flexible, informal framework for addressing and solving implementation challenges in a manner that is not possible in the larger and more formal Meetings of States Parties.

Given the high number of States Parties and interest in this work the Intersessional meetings have become more and more formal. This has been accompanied by a trend towards reporting in these meetings rather than problem solving. Such reporting is also being done in the article 7 reports and Meetings of States Parties. Often, however, the period between the Meeting of States Parties and Intersessional meetings is not long enough that significant progress can really be reported. This trend, if it goes unchecked, can result in a duplication of efforts and a less than optimal use of limited resources.

The best way to ensure that the Standing Committees fulfil their intended purpose is to ensure that we approach the organisation of their work flexibly and creatively, emphasising formats that are most suitable to the problems being discussed and to ensure that we are able to adapt as new challenges are identified.

In light of the points just mentioned, we are pleased to support the proposal for a new Standing Committee on International Cooperation and Assistance for all of the reasons stated in the President's paper and in the special session on this subject held Tuesday afternoon.

As regards the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance, we welcome the recommendations 5 and 6 included in the President's paper on the review of the intersessional work programme concerning how this Standing Committee could experiment with different formats. The ICRC believes that an evolution of the Victim Assistance Standing Committee's working method could, over time, provide tangible benefits for victims in affected States. We welcome the suggestion to allow for more focus on the challenges of specific national contexts with the involvement of service providers working in the country and donors supporting or considering support of victim assistance work in the given country. We thank the several States that have volunteered to engage in a discussion regarding their own context and look forward to working with them, with the Co-chairs and with the ISU to ensure the effectiveness of this approach in June 2011.