

## **President of the Tenth Meeting of the States Parties**

### **Closing Statement – 3 December 2010**

Here in snowy Geneva, the international community has once again come together to renew its commitment to a mine-free world and has agreed to take the necessary steps to guarantee the rights of the survivors all over the world.

The 10MSP has seen us pledge to continue our work to clear mined areas and to assist survivors.

We have seen a record breaking discussion on cooperation and assistance and we have established a new mechanism to ensure that this matter gets the prominence it deserves.

We have seen that we are on the verge of making progress in universalization and we can look forward soon to the day when our movement will grow with the accession of additional States.

We have capped an impressive year of work in evaluating our implementation support unit and with the decisions we have just taken we strengthened the ISU with a view to seeing that we will be well supported in the years to come.

And we have once again seen the vital role of NGOs and international organizations.

We must recall that if it weren't for the ICRC and ICBL, we might not be here today.

Now the challenge that lies before us is to convert the massive amount of work carried out this week into concrete action.

Like my predecessor, to whom we owe a huge debt of gratitude, I intend to put words into action.

You have my commitment that victim assistance will be my top priority.

You can rest assured that I will take my job as chair of the new Standing Committee on Resources, Cooperation and Assistance seriously.

And, I will combine forces with Prince Mired and others to act on our universalization commitments.

As Prince Mired said, though, we must all act on the commitments we made in Cartagena, particularly in ensuring that we live up to the promise that we have made to survivors.

I would urge all of you to do so throughout the year leading up to the 11MSP in Cambodia.

In closing, let me again thank Susan Eckey for her service to this Convention.

Let me thank delegations for your efficient work and your cooperation in the lead up to and during this meeting.

Your dedication is of paramount importance to the ongoing success of this Convention: As the ICBL has said all week – let's keep the energy up!

I would also like to thank those who have supported this meeting, including the interpreters who no doubt have been challenged by this dynamic meeting. My thanks also goes to the ISU for the support that I have received.

I wish you all the best in the year ahead and look forward to working closely with you all.