

Mr. President,

Colombia and Switzerland as co-chairs of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance would like to thank first and foremost the representatives of the State Parties submitting extension requests. We enjoyed regular exchanges about the requests, which allowed us the elaboration of recommendations for the necessary future steps. We also like to appreciate other States Parties in the process of fulfil their obligations under article five for the permanent dialogue and the update of their efforts. The co-operation during the year was close and productive.

We would also like to thank especially the presidency, the implementation support unit, the ICRC and ICBL. Their inputs were highly appreciated and invaluable to the analysis process.

The work in the standing committee was carried out in a co-operative spirit and in an inspiring atmosphere among all involved actors. We kept in mind that our common endeavours have the ultimate aim to make a difference on the ground and for the affected population.

As co-chairs we attempted to implement our mandate given by you, the States Parties, as comprehensive as possible. In addition and with the precious and efficient support of the implementation support unit, we organised a workshop in March 2010 for all States Parties with obligations under article 5 to exchange views and best practices in regard to demining. It was a precious opportunity to learn more from each other, to exchange experiences made in clearance, to discuss challenges to the respective implementations efforts also with a view to reduce the risk of further delays, and to enhance the most needed south-south co-operation. In the same sense, we also like to highlight the experimental session on clearance we organised in the framework of the intersessional meetings in June. We would like to particularly thank Cambodia and Mozambique for their active involvement.

We hope that in the coming months and years, resources can be even more focused on substance. Contributions by the co-chairs will be even more crucial as the number of co-chairs will be reduced. We heard yesterday some proposals regarding how to enhance relevant analysis and considerations related to article 5 challenges, particularly with regard to the process and the work of the Analysing Group. Colombia and Switzerland stand ready to share their experiences and to contribute to these discussions.

Colombia and Switzerland wish the succeeding designate-co-chairs Indonesia and Zambia all the success for their important endeavours.