

4MSP - STATEMENT OF AUSTRIA

Intersessional Work Programme

Thank you,

First of all let me express our thanks to the States Parties for having accepted our nomination to serve as Co-Chair, together with Peru, in the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention. We very much look forward together with all of you at this important juncture in the life of the Convention and we hope to be continue the excellent work done by Norway and Thailand.

We also want to congratulate the other new Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs and we think that, once again, there is an exemplary mixture of geographical balance and mine-affected and donor-states in charge of the Intersessional Work Programme.

I am mainly taking the floor to express our support for the Presidents Paper on the Intersessional Work Programme. It is important to reflect on the purpose for which the Intersessional Work Programme was established. That was to help us implement the Convention to achieve the core humanitarian objectives of universality, of clearing mines, of assisting victims and of destroying stockpiles. This is as valid today as it was in 1999. At this juncture, renewed emphasis on these core objectives is required. The President's Paper is therefore very timely and deserves the support of us all.