

STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS OF THE MINE BAN CONVENTION

Statement by Nigeria delivered by

Kayode Laro

Minister, Permanent Mission of Nigeria, Geneva

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Co - Chairs.

The Nigerian delegation would like to express appreciation for the tireless efforts of the President of the 10 MSP in carrying out the mandate given to him to negotiate an amended agreement between the States Parties and the GICHD that will make the ISU directly responsible to the States Parties.

We particularly appreciate his genuine, transparent and sincere effort to consult as widely as possible and we realize that it is not an easy task to fully accommodate every single proposal or suggestion that has been made by States Parties.

However, allow me to state that the primary and over-riding concern of Nigeria in this review process is to ensure that the ISU remains a transparent, compact and efficient operation. This is because, in our view, the ISU remains the key institutional structure that can help us achieve the broad and laudable goals of the Mine Ban Convention.

As we said in our statement on Monday, Nigeria has benefitted tremendously from the support of the ISU. We also believe that the ISU should remain within the GICHD, even as we attempt to give States Parties more say in the affairs of the Unit.

In the spirit of cooperation and compromise, and in our desire to move the Mine Ban Convention forward in the interest of humanity, Nigeria stands ready to support an amendment that commands broad consensus amongst States Parties. In this regard, we urge all States Parties to show flexibility and compromise as we attempt to amend the agreement between States Parties and the GICHD.

Once again the Nigerian delegation would like to commend the President of the 10 MSP for the great work he has done in putting this draft together.

I thank you.
