

Notes for ICRC intervention on experimentation

Standing Committee on General Status

Friday, 24 June 2011

We would like to share with you our preliminary impressions on the experimental activities carried out during this week of meetings of the Standing Committees. We were able to participate in the experimental sessions covering 3 distinct topics of clearance, victim assistance and article 9 of the Convention. Overall, we have an extremely positive impression of these 3 sessions.

They allowed for productive and in depth interaction between delegations and other actors in a warm and collegial atmosphere. We have the impression that these sessions were also beneficial for the States Parties which offered to present during the VA assistance and clearance discussions. We very much thank Cambodia, Uganda, Afghanistan, Mozambique, Ireland and Zambia for preparing and engaging in these dialogues.

The ICRC considers that the discussions under article 9 to have been the best discussions that have taken place on this topic since this standing committee was created. In this informal and interactive set up, delegations were able to learn from the experience of others that have reflected on their article 9 obligations and decided to adopt specific legislation. We look forward to hearing in November the follow up that delegations might do as a result of this session.

Of course, some aspects could be fine-tuned, like the size of the room used, the use of microphones in some cases and, albeit already being of extremely good quality, the presentations of some States Parties could be more focused on stimulating discussion of challenges they face as opposed to reporting.

Overall, we would like to thank the co-chairs of the 3 Standing Committees for having organized this experimentation and hope that these initiatives could be repeated in the future.

We will reflect more in the coming days and may provide the Coordinating Committee with further thoughts in the near future.