

Closing remark of Ambassador Jean Lint, President of the 4th Meeting of States Parties (7/2/03)

As my friend and co-Chair Michael Oyugi mentioned on Wednesday, my President's Action Programme noted that during the intersessional programme, a priority should be placed on providing mine affected States Parties and those in the process of destroying stockpiles with sufficient opportunities to share information on their plans and needs for assistance.

I am therefore extremely pleased that:

- During the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance, 14 mine affected States Parties provided updates;
- During the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, 19 States Parties provided updates; and,
- During the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction, 25 States Parties provided updates.

In addition, dozens of representatives of States not Parties and non-governmental and international organizations made important contributions regarding how they can support implementation of the Convention on the part of those who may require assistance.

Also during this week, we participated in extremely important discussions on resource mobilization and the exchange of information in Article 7 reports – two elements that are crucial to ensuring that we advance towards the fulfilment of the Convention's promise. We were happy to receive three new initial reports, those of Tajikistan, Tanzania and Qatar.

Our work is all about making a difference – about ensuring that progress is made in the achievement of the Convention's core humanitarian aims.

And progress is exactly what we recorded this week:

- Croatia, Italy, the Netherlands, Chad and Moldova all reported the completion of stockpile destruction since the 4MSP – and Japan indicated that as of tomorrow it too will have completed destruction;
- The Mine affected States Parties communicated to us their full ownership over their landmine problems and their commitment to address the impact of mines in their borders;
- These States Parties expressed in the greatest detail to date their plans to provide for the care and rehabilitation of landmine survivors in their countries – which is crucial in order for us to be able to measure progress in victim assistance; and,
- We welcomed The Gambia, the Central African Republic and Cyprus to the family of States Parties.

To ensure continued progress, several States Parties and organizations have planned a variety of efforts between now and our next meetings in May. I have asked Kerry Brinkert, whom I thank for his competent cooperation during this week, to circulate a calendar containing this work programme – which is intersessional to the intersessional programme. I look forward to updates on these activities in Mays.

I congratulate the Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs, the GICHD and our interpreters for their excellent job and you all for your active participation.