

Draft Closing Statement for H.E. Ambassador Chaiyong Satjipanon, on behalf of the President of the Fifth Meeting of the States Parties, at the Standing Committee Meeting, on 12 February 2004

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Over the past three days and today, we have had fruitful discussion, we have shared our experiences, our success stories as well as our difficulties and constraints in addressing the problem of antipersonnel mines. This week of productive work helps to reaffirm the importance and the usefulness of the Intersessional Programme, the nature of which will have to be decided upon in Nairobi during the First Review Conference by the end of this year.

I certainly believe that all the statements and discussion during this session of the Standing Committees will certainly contribute towards a success in Nairobi. During this week, we have heard a number of good news; various States not Parties to the Convention have expressed their intention to move closer towards the Convention; more progresses have been made in terms of stockpile destruction, mine clearance and victim assistance; we have also heard the results of the regional workshops and seminars held in various regions of the world and that such regional initiatives will continue on in other parts of the world, including in my own country.

I hope that, at the meetings of the Standing Committees in June, we will hear even more good news and success stories, so as to enable us to go to Nairobi with an “achievement mentality.”

On behalf of the President of the 5MSP, I wish to thank all the Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs of the Four Standing Committees, the focal points of the Resource Mobilization Contact Group, the Article 7 Contact Group, and the Universalization Contact Group, for their active work during these past four days as well as during the months of the preparation process.

On behalf of the participants, I thank you, Ambassador Martin Dahinden, Director of the GICHD, for hosting this meeting, and your able staff for their logistical support.

Our profound thanks definitely go to Kerry Brinkert, Manager of the Implementation Support Unit, and his team for their efficient work and assistance rendered to all the Co-Chairs as well as to all delegations.

Last but not least, my appreciation goes to you, all the participants of the meeting for your active participation.

On the final note, I wish those who are leaving today a safe trip home and those who are staying on for tomorrow's preparatory meeting for the First Review Conference a success.

Thank you and have a nice evening.