

**Opening of the week of meetings of the Standing Committees established  
by the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use,  
Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on  
Their Destruction**

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Chaiyong Satjipanon,  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand**

**21 June 2004**

**Dear Colleagues and Friends,**

On behalf of H.E. Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand and President of the Fifth Meeting of the States Parties to the Mine-Ban Convention, allow me to welcome you to the second series of the Standing Committees meetings of this year. My Foreign Minister has also asked me to convey his best regards to all of you and wish you success during this week's meetings.

**Dear Colleagues,**

Our meeting this week is highly significant because it is our last chance to meet before the First Review Conference in Nairobi in November this year. When the Intersessional Work Programme was established in May 1999, it was intended to “engage a broad international community for the purpose of advancing the achievement of the humanitarian aims of the Convention.” It increasingly has lived up to this promise. However, with five days of meetings ahead of us, let us try to aim for an even greater success.

We may recall that the Fifth Meeting of the States Parties called upon mine-affected States Parties and those in the process of destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines “to ensure that prior to the First Review Conference plans are in place consistent with the Convention's deadlines, to take concrete steps to implement these plans.” The Fifth Meeting of the States Parties also called upon these States Parties “to use the opportunity presented by the Intersessional Work Programme to present their problems, plans, progress and priorities for assistance.” The Co-Chairs have again responded to this call by establishing agendas that provide 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.

In addition, the Co-Chairs have provided opportunities for other States and relevant organizations to highlight how they can support implementation of the Convention on the part of those who may require assistance.

The 5MSP also called upon States Parties “to continue to share information and views, particularly with respect to articles 1, 2 and 3, with a view to developing understandings on various matters by the First Review Conference.”

In addition, the 5MSP issued calls related to resource mobilization, universalization and timely reporting in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention. The relevant Co-Chairs have heeded these calls by providing a forum for the States Parties and others, in an informal manner, to share views on these matters.

This week is essential that we maximize the limited time available to us. I will comply with this imperative by ending my opening remarks now to enable us to get right down to work. I wish you all the best for a productive week.

May I now give the floor to Ambassador Martin Dahinden, Director of the GICHD. Ambassador Dahinden, the floor is yours.