

Closing Statement

Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies

(Greece and Nigeria)

23 June 2010

We opened this meeting by highlighting two key challenges identified in Cartagena that are particularly important for us.

The first challenge concerns the fact that several States Parties, including some for which the Convention entered into force several years ago, have not yet provided clarity pursuant to their obligation to report on the location of all mined areas.

The second key challenge concerns our recognition that demonstrating national ownership makes it significantly more likely that cooperation will flourish between those with needs and those in a position to provide assistance.

In terms of what we've seen this week, I would say that if this was a warm up match, we could be satisfied that we have done well.

However, if this was the world cup, we would probably get some strong words of encouragement from our manager to do better next time, with our next time being the 10MSP.

Let us build on the good work illustrated at this meeting to ensure that by the time we next meet in November significant steps have been taken...

...to have implemented the Convention in accordance with the commitments that were made in extension requests...

...to have made significant improvements in locating all mined areas...

...and in getting ourselves even closer to a mine free world.

Let us also be inspired by Nicaragua, a country that has overcome great obstacles to do what some had thought was impossible – the full implementation of Article 5.

Let us also continue to work in a cooperative spirit that has flavoured the work of this Convention since the start.

In this regard, please know that Greece and Nigeria are at the disposal of the States Parties between now and the 10MSP if there is anything you believe we can do as Co-Chairs to assist in seeing us move forward on Article 5 implementation.