

Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention

11 May 2001

South Africa statement on implementation support unit

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to thank the representative of Peru for the presentation of a proposal for implementation support for the Convention, which we strongly support. This proposal accurately underlines the inclusive, transparent and democratic nature of the Ottawa Process and the manner in which we are conducting our work in the Standing Committees. We have preserved unique relations between States Parties developed countries, developing countries and mine affected countries, ICRC, ICBL and other organisations.

This arrangement has moreover been premised on the need to ensure the maximum use of funds and resources for mine clearance and action in the field while not burdening States Parties with administrative costs. None of the process regarding Standing Committees could have been made possible without the generous support of the Swiss government and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining. This has in effect meant that none of us in this room has had to spend one cent to participate.

The shared responsibilities of co-chairs and the mix of developed and developing countries together with mine affected countries has been very effective. However, developing countries with small or sometimes no mission in Geneva are disadvantaged in their capacity and resources

This proposal will assist in rectifying this and will assist in sustaining the principles of the Ottawa process. GICHD have indicated their willingness to give positive consideration to such a proposal. They have already placed much faith and resources at our disposal thusfar and we feel that they should be given our mandate to continue their good work in providing a better service to all of us.

Thank you.