

INTERVENTION OF THE DELEGATION OF PERU DURING THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION RELATED TO THE MANAGUA CHALLENGE

William McDonough's presentation is a cause of great concern. Peru and other countries of the Americas have taken a political decision to destroy their stockpiles of landmines, but the donor community have not reacted in the appropriate measure to come to their support.

Yesterday's presentations have already pointed out how the guiding principle behind the Ottawa Convention - that is to say the ideal of putting an end to human suffering through mutual assistance to fulfill our commitments – is somehow being disregarded. Further efforts shall be undertaken to ensure an effective and appropriate implementation of Article 6 of the Ottawa Treaty.

On the one hand we see governments fully committed to the Ottawa Convention, who are clearly demonstrating their political will to fulfill each and all the provisions of the Treaty and, to that end, are gathering all kind of resources available at the national level : human, technical and financial. On the other hand we see that States that are in a position to support these efforts are not meeting the expectations in the right measure or are diverting available resources to promote sophisticated research and technological innovations, which probably won't render benefits before the deadlines stipulated in the Convention.

Let's take Latin America as an example. A region that has shown decisive support to the signing and ratification of the Ottawa Treaty. A region that is planning its compliance and allocating all scarce resources from national sources to satisfy the Ottawa obligations and that it is also actively participating in the intersessional program of work and showing concrete results in the advancement of mine action programmes. However, according to statistics provided by UNMAS yesterday, the whole region amounts to 3% of all mine action investments. Possibly this cooperation comes mainly from two major donors within the same region or donor countries with whom the Americas has special historical links. Doors do not open when we apply for cooperation outside the region and the principle of non discrimination –that should apply to the rehabilitation of survivors as well as to the granting for mine action aid- regardless of nationality or regional location- is not enforced on a homogeneous and balanced basis to all States Parties.

This situation clearly reflects that the global aid system on which the Ottawa Convention rests is being undermined by strategic and geopolitical considerations.

If this situation is not promptly reversed, we run the risk of not being able to fulfill the expectations that the Convention has raised. Added to it, a very negative signal will be sent if the region that is probably most likely to meet collectively the aims and obligations of the Ottawa Treaty does not do it within the expected timeframe in the Convention.

With this concern in mind, I would like to appeal to the donor community to urgently provide the resources needed by the Managua Challenge Fund to fund overcosts for stockpile destruction operations in the Americas and to increase their cooperation for demining and other related activities in our Region.

