An overview of the history, objectives and process of the Intersessional Work Programme of the Ottawa Convention

Cecilia Sanchez
Objectives

• to ensure effective implementation of the Convention through a regular program of work
• to engage the broad international community in advancing the core humanitarian objectives
• to facilitate in depth consideration of mine action issues by all relevant actors
• to organize the work in way which promotes continuity, openness, transparency, inclusiveness and a cooperative spirit.
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First Year

• bring together different actors
• better understanding of technical aspects of the Convention
• raise awareness about challenges
• reach common understandings on diverse issues
• dissemination of information on broader mine action initiatives
Second Meeting of States Parties

- Standing Committees would meet twice for 1 week between annual Meetings of States Parties
- Instead of 5, 4 Standing Committees:
  - Mine clearance and related technologies (Co-chairs/Co-rapporteurs: Netherlands and Peru/Germany and Yemen)
  - Victim assistance, socio-economic reintegration and mine awareness (Co-chairs/Co-rapporteurs: Japan and Nicaragua/Honduras and Canada)
  - Stockpile destruction (Co-Chairs/Co-rapporteurs: Slovakia and Malaysia/Australia and Croatia)
  - General Status and operation of the Convention (Co-chairs/Co-Rapporteurs: Belgium and Zimbabwe/ Norway and Thailand)
Second Cycle of Intersessional Work Programme

Improvements:
• Greater participation
• Experts learned about other aspects of mine action
• Improved general understanding

Continued:
• To enhance common understanding on diverse issues
• To identify best practices and useful tools
• Provide a « marketplace » for actors to exchange ideas and experiences
Second Meeting of States Parties

- Coordinating Committee of Co-chairs established to ensure a degree of coordination under the chairmanship of the President of the Meeting of States Parties
- *Standing Committees of Experts* changed to the *Standing Committees*
- Sponsorship programme also established
Reporting of the Intersessional Work Programme

Standing Committee Reports:
- Informal historical record of discussions
- Final Reports for the Meeting of States Parties (annexed to the Final Report of the MSP under responsibility of Co-chairs)

Coordinating Committee Summaries:
- Brief President’s Summary of every meeting

Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining Website: www.gichd.ch
Third Meeting of States Parties

Enhancements:

• General Status and Operations to provide an overview on general state of implementation and of universalization

• Agendas of Standing Committees focus on:
  – Status of implementation
  – Assessment of needs (plans/progress of States)
  – Matters of thematic nature

• Comprehensive package

• Briefings
Closing remarks

• Implementation Support Unit in the GICHD

• Intersessional Work Programme is an informal process!

• Great to hear from States Parties (mine affected)

• Opportunity to learn and to contribute!
THANK YOU
GRACIAS
MERCI