

STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE GENERAL STATUS AND
OPERATION OF THE CONVENTION

CO-CHAIRS' CLOSING REMARKS

FRIDAY 29 MAY

Thank you, colleagues and friends, for your active participation in the work of this committee.

This week, we have had an extremely useful exchange of views and updates from a number of States Parties and others.

In particular, notwithstanding the time is quite limited for the Standing Committee of General Status and Operation, we heard numerous fruitful comments and discussions on various issues that could provide important inputs to the preparations for the Second Review Conference in November.

We would like to highlight our reflections of these discussions.

- As Co-Chairs, we recognized that the Second Review Conference is an opportunity to reinforce and revitalize this instrument.
- We acknowledge the importance for universalization efforts to continue, particularly by focusing attention on and not shying away from the most difficult cases.

As well, we feel strongly that we must promote the acceptance Convention's norms on the part of armed non-State actors. We must reaffirm that any use of anti-personnel mines is unacceptable.

- We need to increase our efforts to fulfill our obligations under Article 7 of the Convention. We must remember that since 2002 we have considered "transparency in implementations" as one of the "other matters essential for achieving the Convention's aims".
- And, we need to resist the fatigue to implement Article 9 of the Convention. Let us recall that this is the cornerstone of our efforts to ensure compliance with the Convention.

As Co-Chairs we also believe that we need to enhance our discussions in a number of areas:

- First: We cannot avoid the fact that since 2004, we have seen great advances made in how international humanitarian law addresses the breadth of problems caused by explosive hazards, including cluster munitions.

We will have to see how we can best ensure that the totality of the international community's efforts to end the landmine error and to eliminate other explosive remnants of war are coherent and efficient.

- Second: We must acknowledge that while transparency in Article 3 has increased dramatically since 2004, still too few States Parties are sharing information in response to Co-Chairs' requests.
- And third: We must attach greater importance to how regional approaches can be used to enhance implementation, thus serving as a complement to our national and international efforts.

With regard to the States Parties that wish to serve as Co-Rapporteurs following the Second Review Conference, we would reiterate that we have received five written expressions of interest and one oral one.

We need in particular an expression of interest from an African State Party in order for us to complete our task.

In closing, we wish to express our gratitude to our President, Ambassador Juerg Streuli, for his leadership this year, including the efforts he has undertaken to promote universalization and to guide us through the Article 5 extension process.

We thank the interpreters for their efforts.

And finally, we thank Ambassador Stephan Husy and the GICHD for hosting us and Kerry Brinkert, Sophie Delfolie and the ISU for supporting our work.

The meeting is adjourned.