



**Meetings of the Standing Committees established by the States Parties to
the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (25 – 29 May 2009)**

Opening speech – 25 May 2009

**Ambassador Stephan Husy
Director of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining**

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear colleagues,

With great pleasure I welcome you all to the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining.

The intersessional programme is about providing States Parties with the opportunity to share updates on their progress, common understandings and concerns. The intersessional meetings have been crucial to achieving the goals set in Nairobi, and I am convinced that these gatherings will remain important to accomplish objectives that State Parties will agree on during the Second Review Conference in Cartagena.

The Co-Chairs carefully prepared this week's programme, with the support of the Implementation Support Unit, which I have the privilege to host in the GICHD. The Centre and the ISU also supported the administration of the sponsorship programme, and I am pleased that it was possible to organize the attendance of more than 50 representatives among the 500+ registered.

You have a full schedule this week and a lot of work ahead of you, but I hope that you will also find the time to come to the reception hosted by the GICHD on Wednesday evening at 6 pm on the top floor of this building.

I wish you all a successful week.