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Geneva | Switzerland
ap mine ban convention

Press Release

Tenth Meeting of the States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Announced

2 November 2010, Geneva, Switzerland - The incoming president of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention has announced the Tenth Meeting of the States Parties will take place in Geneva, Switzerland from 29 November to 3 December 2010.

The opening ceremony on Monday 29 November will feature addresses by Micheline Calmy-Rey, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, Edmond Haxhinasto, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Albania and Jakob Kellenberger, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, ICRC.

“This is an important milestone on our road to a `mine-free world”” said Gazmend Turdiu, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Albania and President-designate of the Convention. “Key issues to be discussed include challenges related to clearing mined areas, destroying stockpiled mines and ensuring sustained support for landmine survivors.” added Turdiu.

Discussion of international cooperation and assistance will also figure prominently on the agenda.

“Promoting technical cooperation, information exchanges and other forms of assistance continues to be one of our core functions,” said Turdiu. “It is also important that we continue to emphasize that strong national ownership is essential for ensuring that cooperation can flourish,” he added.

During the five day meeting over 700 delegates representing over 100 States, international and non-governmental organizations will discuss the progress made during the first year of the application of the *Cartagena Action Plan*, which requires States Parties to adopt measures aimed at ending the use and stockpiling of landmines and assisting the victims. The plan was adopted during the *Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World* or Second Review Conference of the Convention, which took place in Cartagena, Colombia from 30 November to 4 December 2009.

“We were greatly encouraged by the promises made by governments at the 2009 Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World. Now we need to hear how these have been turned into action on the ground,” said Tamar Gabelnick, Treaty Implementation Director for the International

Campaign to Ban Landmines, ICBL, a global network of non-governmental organizations and co-laureate of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize.

“We know deminers continue the hard work of clearing land in dozens of countries. But a lot remains to be done to ensure the necessary political support and multi-year funding to complete the work, to include landmine survivors in the economic and social lives of their communities, and to destroy millions of landmines still kept in warehouses. We count on States to keep up the energy until this job is fully done,” added Gabelnick.

During the 10MSP, the States Parties will also take formal decisions on the requests for extension for clearing mined areas presented by Chad, Colombia, Denmark, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania and Zimbabwe.

The 1997 AP Mine Ban Convention was adopted in Oslo and opened for signature in Ottawa.

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Contact: Laila Rodriguez, isu@gichd.org