

Intervention of the International Committee of the Red Cross

Fifth Meeting of States Parties Bangkok

17 September 2003

General Status and Operation of the Convention Resource Mobilisation

The period between the 2004 Review Conference and the beginning of the mine clearance deadlines in 2009 will be crucial for the success of the Convention.

During this period, where there might be a natural tendency towards diminished political interest and financial support for mine action. At precisely this time, this Convention will need to ensure -- as we've heard in related interventions by mine-affected States over the past two days -- a significant increase in internal and external resources to support the implementation of the Convention within fixed deadlines. This has been made all the more pressing by the adherence last year of Angola and Afghanistan, two of the most heavily mined States in the world.

This situation highlights the crucial importance of the Review Conference in 2004 and the importance of intensive preparations in the year ahead. Work is needed on two fronts:

- Resource mobilisation requires needs assessments and planning by mine-affected States Parties, using the "4-P" approach as a guide -- i.e. to determine problems, plans, progress and priorities for mine action. If such plans and needs assessments are not in place by the Review Conference, it is unlikely that deadlines beginning in 2009 will be met, and unlikely that the plight of survivors will improve significantly.
- These needs assessments should be matched with increased commitments of internal and external resources.

Given the importance of efforts on these two fronts in the coming year, the ICRC believes they should be the subject of recommendations in the Final Report.