

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Dear Friends...

Before I close, what has been a very busy and I think productive week, I thought I would just take a moment to thank you all for making the effort to travel to Jordan.

If I may speak on behalf on my team at the NCDR, and as a proud Jordanian for a moment, it has been a tremendous honor and privilege to host such a committed, energized, and creative body. We truly have been the benefactors of your visit.

I also must say that after one week on the job, I feel comfortable – *and will sleep better!* knowing that as President I can draw upon the considerable experience and knowledge of this community in the upcoming year. You can be sure it will heavily tapped.

I humbly ask for you to take the energy and momentum that we have built together over the past week home with you. It might sound cliché to say, but we **really** are entering an important phase in the life of our convention.

The *Dead Sea Progress Report* provides us with a roadmap, and a list of challenges, that we really need to address comprehensively before we meet again in Geneva in a year's time. So please, no matter where you fit into in the mine action mosaic, remember your time here, the impressions, the history that surround us, and the history that we can make better for our children, friends, families, and neighbors when you return to work in the coming days.

*Dear Friends...*

Hopefully, most of you have been able to experience some aspect of Jordanian hospitality. I can assure you we have thoroughly enjoyed having you.

However, when we decided to host the 8MSP and assume the Presidency of the Convention, it was because we wanted to shoulder some of the responsibility that comes with expanding the number of signatories and continuing the hard work of implementing the Convention. Now that the baton has formally been passed to Jordan, I want to promise everyone that we will do our best to meet the high standards and success of previous presidents in keeping the Convention, relevant and responsive. I really think that working together we can meet both past and future expectations.