



## Meetings of the APMBC Standing Committees

Geneva, 27-31 May 2013

### Opening Session

Welcome Remarks delivered by Ambassador Stephan Husy, Director, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining

---

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- > It is a pleasure to join you, Mr President, dear Colleagues, for the opening of the meeting of the Standing Committees.
- > The GICHD has had the honour to host the intersessional meetings of the Mine Ban Treaty since 1999, i.e. since the start of the Intersessional Work Programme.
- > From next year there will be a change in the sense that the GICHD and the ISU-APMBC will move to new offices. In January 2014, the new offices will be at the Maison de la Paix right across the railways.
- > However, next year as well it will be possible to host the intersessional meetings in the WMO building which became second home to many of you. The conference rooms have been tentatively reserved for the week of 24 March 2014 for intersessional work and a (second) preparatory meeting for the next year's Review Conference.
- > Some side events might be organised at the Maison de la Paix which means that you will get more fresh air when moving back and forth. There will be a bridge for pedestrians connecting the two buildings.
- > The GICHD is pleased to continue its support for the organisation of the intersessional meetings which includes conference facilities and services, security, IT and printing, refreshments, interpretation in English, French, Russian, Spanish and Arabic, as well as the administration of the sponsorship programme.

I wish you all a successful week.