

## **Notes for ICRC intervention on "International cooperation and assistance"**

### **Review of the status and operation of the Convention, Cartagena Summit, Tuesday 1 December 2009**

We would like to address an issue which is central to addressing the three great challenges this Convention is now facing: ensuring the clearance of anti-personnel mines within the treaty's deadlines, the delivery of better victim assistance to the hundreds of thousands of landmine victims and the destruction of stockpiles within deadlines. The issue that links these challenges together can be presented in one word: resources. None of the major challenges the Convention is now facing will be met unless we can do even better at mobilising resources nationally and internationally, do better at identifying and using the funding mechanisms that are available and do better at using the resources we have. We urge States Parties to decide at this Review Conference to begin addressing the issue of resources head on, as a major challenge to the success of this Convention.

One way of doing this, as presented by Zambia and Senegal at the Second Preparatory Meeting in September, would be to establish a Standing Committee on Resources within the intersessional process and to address this challenge in an even more prominent manner at future Meetings of States Parties.

The Standing Committee could examine issues related to the mobilisation of national and international resources, international cooperation and assistance and the efficient use of available resources. It could provide a forum for States Parties that are in the process of meeting specific obligations in the fields of clearance, victim assistance and stockpile destruction to present and share experiences in national resource mobilisation and to identify their remaining needs. States Parties in a position to provide assistance—as well as other donors—could outline the resources that are available and how they can be accessed.

In our view, such a Standing Committee would not and should not become a "funding forum". It would complement, rather than replace, bilateral funding discussions by providing a forum for the sharing of national experiences among affected States and for the provision of detailed information on national, regional, international and multilateral funding mechanisms relevant to mine action. It has become clear to us that the lack of readily available information on these mechanisms has been one of the important challenges of affected States trying to implement their obligations. In some cases when funding mechanisms have evolved or been replaced by other approaches, gaps in mine action funding have resulted and led to, for example, the laying off of trained clearance workers. In the field of victim assistance it has also become clear that only a few States are in a position to identify which, and how much resources they have invested in fulfillment of the obligations of the Convention. A Standing Committee could also address in a broader coordinated manner thematic issues previously discussed in contact

groups and side events such as mine action and development, resource utilisation and national ownership.

Ultimately, a Standing Committee on Resources could strengthen the partnerships between and among States that require assistance to fulfill their treaty obligations, States in a position to provide such assistance, relevant international and regional organizations and civil society. We urge States at this meeting to give careful consideration and, if possible, explicit support to the Zambian proposal for the establishment of a Standing Committee on Resources as a future element of the Convention's implementation mechanisms.

In closing, I would like to announce that last week in Nairobi, the entire International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, including the ICRC, National Societies and their International Federation, adopted a new *Movement Strategy on Landmines, Cluster Munitions and other Explosive Remnants of War*. This strategy will help all components of the Movement to prioritise and commit resources to the promotion of the international humanitarian law treaties in this field, the enhancement of operational risk reduction activities in affected communities and the provision of assistance to victims.