

**Summary of the 22 July 2004 meeting  
between the Resource Mobilisation Task Force and the World Bank**

- On 22 July 2004, **H.E. Dr. Sorajak Kasemsuvan, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand**, on behalf of the President of the Fifth Meeting of the States Parties (H.E. Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand) led a delegation of the *Resource Mobilisation Task Force* to meet with **Mr. Ian Johnson, Vice President (Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development) of the World Bank** at the Bank's headquarters in Washington, D.C. The Task Force delegation included representatives of Afghanistan, Canada, Japan, Mozambique, Norway, Switzerland and Thailand, and advisors representing the GICHD, ICBL, UNDP, UNICEF and UNMAS. The Bank's officials besides the Vice President were Mr. Odin Knudsen (Senior Advisor to Ian Johnston), Mr. Ian Bannon (Manager of the Conflict Prevention and Reconstruction Programme), and the World Bank's country directors and managers responsible for Afghanistan and Cambodia.
- The key purposes of the meeting were to: (a) highlight to the World Bank how mine action is closely linked to socio-economic development and the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals; (b) seek the World Bank's partnership and assess the possibility of how the Bank could be of greater assistance in promoting mine action and development through its existing mechanisms and relevant programme of post-war/post-conflict reconstruction; and, (c) encourage Mr. James Wolfensohn, President of the World Bank, to participate in the Nairobi Summit on a Mine-Free World.
- In the discussion with Mr. Johnson and his team, the Task Force acknowledged the Bank's operational guidelines, studies and work concerning mine clearance and mine action in post-conflict countries. The Task Force also noted that at the Meeting of the Convention's Standing Committees in May 2003, a representative of the World Bank had emphasized the need to make the development case for mine action. The Task Force, therefore, encouraged the Bank to mainstream mine action and its relevance to socio-economic development more deeply into the Bank's structure and programmes of work. A suggestion, for example, was made to the Bank to consider circulating a note to its country office representatives in order to make them aware of the Bank's "Operational Guidelines" and "Manager's Guide for Mine Action" as well as to ask them to factor mine action into their development analyses. The Bank was also requested to help further engage regional financial institutions, donors and development agencies in mine action through its high standing in the Consultative Group. In addition, the Bank was asked to continue to support the studies of socio-economic impact of anti-personnel mines and apply its cost-benefit analyses to the issue of victim assistance. The discussion with the Bank was well illustrated by concrete examples of Afghanistan, Mozambique and Cambodia.

- Responding very positively to the Task Force’s presentation, Mr. Ian Johnson, the World Bank’s Vice President, (a) agreed to establish partnership with the Task Force and mine action community by assigning Mr. Ian Bannon, Manager of the Conflict Prevention and Reconstruction Programme, to be a contact person in liaising with the Task Force’s focal points, i.e. Mr. Jean Devlin, Chief of Mine Action Unit, CIDA, and Mr. Earl Turcotte, Development Advisor of Mine Action Team, UNDP; (b) expressed the intention to raise the issues discussed with the Task Force at the next meeting of the Bank’s Board of Directors; (c) requested the Task Force to help draft a transmission note for further circulation to the Bank’s country directors and managers in raising their awareness regarding the link between mine action and development; (d) agreed to follow up on the participation of Mr. James Wolfensohn, President of the World Bank, in the Nairobi Summit; (e) agreed to hold a briefing on a relevant topic in the margins of the Summit.
- The World Bank’s Vice President also showed his willingness to render assistance to mine action. He stated that one of the Bank’s mandates was to help countries to fulfill their obligations to international conventions and treaties. Regarding mine action, the World Bank’s Vice President noted that one difficulty was due to unclear demand. He, therefore, suggested that in putting up a proposal requesting for assistance, mine-affected countries should consider: (a) linking such request to their national development strategies or poverty reduction strategic plans (PRSP); (b) identifying funding gap beyond its government’s support; and, (c) involving officials of Ministry of Finance who have working experience with the Bank to help out in making such a proposal.
- The Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand briefed the Vice President of the World Bank on Thailand’s efforts in promoting universalisation of the Convention through the work of a special envoy and in highlighting the link between mine action and development, including the hosting of a regional seminar “Development Challenges of Mine Clearance and Victim Assistance in Southeast Asia” to be held in Bangkok during 30 August – 1 September 2004. The Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs also thanked the Vice President of the World Bank for an opportunity given to the Task Force and for a frank and candid dialogue. He expressed hope that many issues discussed at the meeting would be followed up so as to yield tangible outcomes before the meeting between H.E. Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Foreign Minister of Thailand and 5MSP President, and Mr. James Wolfensohn, President of the World Bank, on 20 September 2004 at the World Bank’s headquarter in Washington D.C., and proposed that a Joint Statement between H.E. Foreign Minister of Thailand and the President of the World Bank could be issued after the meeting.

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