



## Meeting of the Standing Committees established by the States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (20 – 24 June 2011)

*Standing Committee on Resources, Cooperation and Assistance – 24 June 2011*

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Dear Colleagues,

The GICHD wholeheartedly endorses the efforts of the Standing Committee to enhance both the effectiveness and efficiency of cooperation and assistance.

Greater effectiveness implies that mine action resources are focussed on national priorities. This in turn requires capable and committed national authorities to coordinate assistance for mine action.

Since its inception, the Centre has targetted its efforts on supporting national authorities in assuming ownership. This has included facilitation for the development of national mine action strategies, plus building capacities for monitoring and evaluation. This enables national authorities to learn what's working and what isn't, and demonstrate success in implementing their strategies. Building on this experience, we have recently instituted a study on transition to national ownership, in partnership with the UN Mine Action Team.

The Centre also works hard at making mine action more efficient. This includes improvements – both steady and significant – in survey and clearance operations. In addition, we aim to contribute to timeliness and efficiency in the delivery of assistance; for example, through our studies and workshops on contracting, liability and insurance in mine action. More recently, we are investigating on the potential of new financing modalities for mine action, such as cash-on-delivery aid, which appear to be of particular relevance as countries approach their completion points for Article 5 of the Convention.

The Centre's aims to intensify its focus on efficiency and effectiveness over the coming years, as we have proposed the following strategic objectives for our new Strategy:

1. Achieving global clarity – resource allocations cannot be fully efficient or effective unless the extent and impact of the contamination problem is known both for individual countries and globally. The Centre will accelerate progress towards global clarity.
2. Delivering decision-support solutions for planning and prioritisation at both the strategic and operational levels – the Centre shall assist national authorities to implement programme-based resource allocation systems to improve performance and reinforce national ownership, based on information management processes that have been tailored to the needs of national decision-makers in each country.
3. Enabling countries to deliver value-for-money and to demonstrate success – The GICHD shall focus on closing the implementation gap between best practice and standard practice by accelerating the adoption of a more integrated, results-focused approaches, and by 'raising the bar' in terms of Quality Management.

At the risk of stating the obvious, we should like to take this opportunity to emphasise that efficiency and effectiveness are unreachable aims if we fail to consider the needs and aspirations of all people – women, girls, boys and men. The Centre is working ever more closely with our colleagues in the Gender & Mine Action Programme to ensure gender and diversity issues are mainstreamed.

We invite national authorities and their development partners who are committed to performance improvements, or who have developed innovative solutions that may be of use to other mine-affected countries, to meet with us to discuss how the GICHD might contribute to their efforts.