Update For The Standing Committee Meeting

Mine Clearance In Ethiopia

April 23-27.
Integrated Demining Deployment.
2 Mine clearance progress and Outputs.

- The manual demining companies have increased from four to six, the Machine team from three to six & the MDD team from six to twelve.

- In addition to previously mine clearance working areas we have deployed two manual demining companies & Two technical survey teams on jigiga & Aysha woreda of our jurisdiction.

- More than thirty one million sq. meters of mine infested land was cleared as of march 2007. 3,320 APM, 272 ATM & 35,555 UXO's destroyed. Out of which 8,656,827.6 sq. meters & 2,764,199sq. meters clearance are done in 2006 & first quarter of 2007 respectively. Along this clearance destruction of 1,725 AP, 52 AT, 15059 UXO's are destroyed in 2006 And 417 AP, 31 AT & 1,689 UXO's are in the first quarter of 2007. More over up to the end of march 2007 about 114sq.kms. of suspected mined areas are technically verified and released for the community use.
3 Regarding Remaining works to destroy AP mines in mined areas.

- We hope mine clearance will accelerate with the existing commitment in a better speed. Accordingly, destruction of anti personnel mines from high prioritized areas as indicated in our survey database are expected to be accomplished up to 2010 & the remaining suspected mined area before the deadline.
4 Prospective end-date to implement mine clearance as per article 5

- Currently we don’t think any circumstances that may impede mine clearance in our jurisdiction, except resource limitation. The obligation deadline for Ethiopia is 2014 but as per the existing effort & progress shown we don't anticipate extension request to meet the obligation.
5 Financial & technical means dedicated to ensure fulfillment of article 5 obligation.

- The Government of Ethiopia in collaboration with UN, NPA & other International agencies has created competent capacity, in terms of technical demining professionals & other resource mobilization to address the land mine problem in Ethiopia.

- Up to the end of December 2006, the lion's shares of costs for the national demining activities were covered by a government loan from the World Bank.

- European Commission, through UNDP, has made project agreement to cover most of the demining and related activity cost for the year 2007/08.
6 National Ownership & capacity development

- From the beginning the Mine Action Activity in Ethiopia, especially mine clearance & MRE is conducted by national organization. With some technical & training assistance from UN & Other International agencies. Recognizing the fact that national ownership has vital role for sustainable implementation of mine action we are trying to run the program with national experts & management with reduced number of International advisors.
7 External assistance

- Ethiopia is grouped among the heavily mine contaminated countries with difficult topography & conditions for mine clearance. This demands extensive cost to tackle the problem.

ELIS Map showing Suspected Mined Areas.
Being a country with limited resource, it has ratified the convention, hoping that the required assistance will be available from those supporting agencies.

Considering the above facts, the national demining strategic plan states that external assistance in resource mobilization is unavoidable to fulfill article 5 obligations.

Finally we strongly like to express our gratitude to the countries, International organizations, & donors who have extended valuable assistance for mine clearance Activity in our country.
Thank you