

Intersessional Meeting of the Standing Committees – April, 2007
Standing Committee on clearance
Canada's statement

COOPERATION ASSISTANCE

Mr. Chairman,

Canada would like to take this opportunity to make a few points in response to you invitation.

Allow me to start by pointing out that, on the broader picture of mobilizing resources for assistance to mine action, we support the work undertaken by the Resource mobilization CG to ensure more effective use of resources and especially their use toward sustainable capacity building.

Canada's role in the Contact Group on linking mine action and development is to be seen as a complementary effort. This effort should be seen as deepening the developmental approaches to mine action.

We believe cooperation assistance should be built on two solid pillars: the first being developed on evidence based analysis of priorities and needs, the second on commitment to capacity building and ownership by governments to integrate mine action priorities and plans in national development plans, where this is appropriate.

We believe more solid progress reports are needed to track country developments in land clearance and release, victim assistance and capacity development for national institutions.

We also need to make sure donor cooperation is effective. Where the challenge is particularly important, donor coordination in the field becomes essential. Perhaps the time has come to review cooperation assistance approaches to see how they can be made more effective. In this context, Canada would like to suggest that an independent study be made of assistance in mine action to draw some lessons and bring the results of this analysis to the consideration of a future Member States Parties meeting.

Mr. Chairman,

For its part, Canada will continue to provide assistance in relation to Art 6.

The Canadian Landmine Fund, the initial source of support to mine affected members states will come to an end in 2008. However, Canada will strive to maintain its level of commitment through integration of mine action in its humanitarian, peace building and development programmes.

We will seek to direct our assistance where needs are greatest and progress can be translated in sustainable benefits for affected populations. Whenever possible, emphasis

will be given to national capacity development, surveying and mapping and MRE to minimize impact of mines. Victim assistance should be integrated with national health and social development programmes we support in countries where our aid is concentrated.

This effort will be undertaken through close collaboration between the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Canadian International Development Agency.

This has already started to happen through a carefully planned and early transition from dedicated funding to integration within our development, peace building and humanitarian programmes in both the departments of Foreign Affairs and in CIDA.

Integration of Article 5 into regular assistance programming can prove to be financially viable: I am pleased to report that for 2006, Canada's support to mine action has totalled close to \$34 million dollars. This has been achieved largely through integration of mine action in our regular programmes. Out of the total amount, \$ 10.5 million accounts for funding from dedicated budget source, whereas \$ 23.3 million comes from additional source, or 68 % of total funding. Details of this funding have been provided in response to the co-chairs' questionnaire and as part of Canada's response to Article 7 reporting.

Thank you Mr. Chairman