

Report from the Contact Group on Resource Mobilisation
Norway
7 February 2003

The issue of resource mobilisation was addressed by the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operations of the Convention on the 3 February 2003 as well as in a separate meeting of the Contact Group on Resource Mobilisation on 4 February. The main elements of the discussions were the following:

1. Resource mobilisation

There was broad agreement on the need to reinforce the political commitment to the aims of the Convention, which must be translated into a sustained funding level. Innovative thinking on how to mobilise more resources was welcomed. Traditional donors were encouraged to consider ways and means to identify possible avenues. The mine ban community in donor countries should endeavour to increase contact with those in charge of development assistance.

It was underlined that donor countries should also address the priorities as defined by mine-affected states. Although certain categories of mine affected countries would be in more need for assistance, one must bear in mind that a large number of countries would need external support.

There was a general feeling that new partnerships between the public and private sector should be further explored. Likewise the active engagement of NGOs is more important than ever. It is encouraging that the ICBL will continue its active advocacy role as well as continued efforts to raise awareness of the challenges posed by landmines in order to maintain and generate heightened international and national interest in the lead-up to the Review Conference.

There was a common understanding that mine affected countries should be encouraged to mobilise domestic resources for the implementation of national mine action programmes. Concrete examples of such national responsibility were presented.

It was recognised that the core of the Convention is its humanitarian objectives, while at the same time it is evident that landmines represent a formidable obstacle to sustainable development. Integrating mine action into national development programmes or national strategies for poverty eradication would demonstrate that mine-affected countries are giving mine action programmes high priority. Such a priority setting may lead to increased funding to mine action programmes from bilateral development partners and multilateral institutions. The World Bank has already been engaged by some mine-affected countries, while the regional banks so far have not profiled themselves on mine action programmes. States Parties are encouraged to send a consistent message to the governing boards of the financial institutions.

In addition to mainstreaming mine action in cross-sectoral development programmes, there also is a need to integrate mine action programmes in different sectoral programmes such as health, infrastructure development, employment creation, agriculture and disability rights.

The commitment by the UN family was welcomed. One should consider how various UN mechanisms such as the Consolidated Appeals (CAP), the United Nations Development Framework (UNDAF), the United Nations Development Group are addressing the landmine issue and if there is room for improvement.

2. Utilisation of available resources

It was stated that one must consider not only the quantitative aspects of resource mobilisation, but also the effective and efficient use of resources. A common message from the discussions was that the mine-affected countries should be encouraged to clearly define their needs and priorities and take responsibility for the management of the programmes. National ownership was emphasised.

Another important message was to avoid duplication of international mine action efforts. The various actors should be encouraged to strive for more partnerships and cooperation. Institutions should mutually support each other.

There are different coordinating mechanisms for both humanitarian and development activities at the country level. Some of these could be relevant for mine action.

Discussions from the meeting of the Contact Group

More than 50 individuals participated in the first meeting of the Contact Group on 4 February, including representatives from mine-affected States Parties, traditional donor countries, multilateral institutions, the ICBL, the ICRC and the private sector. The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the operationalisation of the main points in the Norwegian Non Paper circulated at the 4MSP. In this respect, the following matters were addressed:

- **Current donor countries should be encouraged to renew their financial commitments.** An extensive discussion on this item took place. There was a general feeling of the need to reaffirm both political and financial commitments. Given the ambitious demining targets for 2009 one likely would need more funding than the current level. The Review Conference in 2004 provides an opportunity to make these reaffirmations. A high level and visible conference could support such an aim. It must be demonstrated both that the Convention has so far been a success and that further efforts are still needed. Thus the preparations for the Conference is of great importance, in part to promote public awareness in traditional donor countries so there will be a continued political will to provide funding for mine action programmes. The role of the ICBL and the ICRC is important to this end.
- **Mine affected States parties should be encouraged to provide domestic resources in support of national programmes.** The Contact Group clearly reaffirmed this principle. Mine affected States Parties must have ownership over and be in charge of their national mine action and victim assistance programmes. It was also expressed that by allocating resources one also demonstrates a priority setting and hence could further mobilise external funds. At the same time it was acknowledged that there are differences among mine affected States Parties in their abilities to provide domestic resources, given their different development levels. The Contact Group also noted that many mine affected States Parties support their national programmes in various ways, although such in kind

support may not be easily registered as financial allocations. There will be a need for a “case by case” approach. The Contact Group also underlined the need to mainstream mine action programmes in cross-sectoral development programmes/strategies to combat poverty, as well as integrating mine action in the sectoral programmes. Mine affected States Parties, which had not responded to the Contact Group Coordinator’s November 2002 questionnaire, were encouraged to do so.

- **Multilateral agencies and development banks could be encouraged to consider how they could enhance their involvement in support of the Convention’s implementation.** This issue will be subject of focus at the May intersessional meetings.
- **Mine affected States and non-traditional State donors could examine how they could share experiences and technical support with each other.** The Contact Group stressed the usefulness of cooperation among mine affected States. There is a need to gather more data and find ways to register the different forms of such cooperation and give this issue more attention. It was noted that there already exist UN projects that promote the sharing of experiences among mine affected States.
- **The private sector could be further mobilised to contribute to mine action.** Although not an easy task, it was felt that more efforts should be made to engage the private sector. One should explore the possibilities offered by the Global Compact and other initiative to promote socially responsible behaviour of private companies.
- **We should more effectively link the needs of mine-affected countries with the donor community, to ensure that available resources are used in a best possible manner.** Although it is important to secure a sustained and adequate funding level for mine action programmes, one must also consider the quality of ongoing mine efforts. The Contact Group emphasised that assistance must be demand driven. Mine affected states must define their national priorities. In some cases there would be a need to strengthen national capacities in order to empower mine affected states to be in charge of national programmes. Coordination structures may differ according to circumstances. A particular challenge will be to assist countries undergoing the difficult transition from relief to long term development. It was underlined that agencies should further strengthen coordination among themselves. Likewise coordination among donors is important. One should avoid duplication of efforts among the different actors.

This item will be subject for further consideration in the future.

The way ahead

The week of meetings focused on the responsibility of States Parties to provide sustained funding and considered how to effectively link the needs of mine affected states with donors. While the discussion of these items was not exhausted, the May meetings will feature a focus on the role of multilateral institutions, possibly the role of NGOs and the private sector, as well as continued discussions on the effective use of resources.

States Parties are encouraged to provide information on resource mobilisation to either the Permanent Mission of Norway or to the Implementation Support Unit. The background document on resource mobilisation will be updated and distributed in May. There will be further consultations on resource mobilisation in March.