

**Resource Mobilization for Mine Action : Notes for an Intervention by CANADA**  
**Intersessional Contact Group Meeting, Geneva, February 9, 2004**

I Thank you Mme Chair and our thanks as well to Norway for Merete's excellent overview of the issue. We also very much appreciated the presentation by the representative of the Asian Development Bank. We found his remarks most encouraging.

Canada wishes to begin by saying how pleased we are with the progress being made by the Resource Mobilization Contact Group and, as part of this, the establishment of the Task Force struck at the 5MSP to try to further engage the World Bank, Regional Development Banks and other major donors in the international development community. This has come together quickly and we are deeply grateful that his excellency the Foreign Minister of Thailand, in his capacity as President of the 5MSP, has written to the President of the World Bank seeking a meeting between the Bank and the Task Force. We hope this is only the first of many such meetings between the Mine Action community and the broader international development community.

II In Canada, we continue to press the case that Mine Action is both a humanitarian imperative and a precondition for poverty reduction and sustainable development. Today our comments will focus on our campaign to mainstream Mine Action into the activities of the Canadian International Development Agency. At a later date, we will speak to similar work in our Departments of Foreign Affairs and Defence.

III In addition to the direct threat landmines pose to life and limb for humans and animals, they incur significant indirect political, social and economic costs in many sectors in many by:

- (i) diverting scarce resources available for public health;*
- (ii) rendering land unusable for agriculture and habitation;*
- (iii) limiting access to water for irrigation and consumption;*
- (iv) preventing schools from being built and students and teachers from attending;*
- (v) restricting the construction and maintenance of physical infrastructure including transport, communications, power generation and distribution;*
- (vi) inhibiting both small-scale income generating activities and industrial and commercial development,*
- (vii) discouraging domestic and foreign direct investment;*
- (viii) breeding insecurity which poses an obstacle to peacebuilding and stabilization, and*
- (ix) abrogating the basic right to life, liberty and security of the person.*

*Mine Action is, thus, a full and legitimate sector of development unto itself and a cross-cutting issue essential to progress in many other development sectors.*

IV The Mine Action Unit, part of the Multilateral Programs Branch of CIDA, is working with all branches responsible for programming in mine affected countries to determine: (i) the extent to which landmines and other uxo affect development, (ii) how Mine Action can be incorporated into their country program strategies, (iii) the level of resources that can be allocated to Mine Action either exclusively by them or on a cost-share basis with the Mine Action unit, and finally,

(iv) the specific areas and activities to be targeted . Where geographic Desks are not currently in a position to invest in Mine Action but have demonstrated a clear interest, we invite them to assume the management of Mine Action Unit resources in the short term with the understanding that they will invest themselves when able to do so. - - In all cases, however, we are gradually but steadily anchoring the ‘fact’ of Mine Action into normal operations.

Among other things this establishes a relationship between our program branches and the individuals responsible for Mine Action in government and civil society within mine affected states. In several cases, this has brought the Mine Action issue into discussion between our bilateral programs and their chief interlocutors in the Planning and Finance Ministries of mine affected states for the first time, reinforcing parallel efforts of our developing country counterparts.

V Usually, not too far along in any discussion with colleagues in CIDA, they ask the question: What, specifically, is it that you would like us to do? If I may Mme chair, I would like to take this opportunity to list a series of suggested steps that we are encouraging our various program branches to undertake:

First of all, from the start we urge them to work collaboratively with other members of the broad international development community in support of the efforts led by mine affected states:

**1 to undertake and/or review research and analysis to determine the full humanitarian and development impact of landmines/uxo on their population, especially the most vulnerable groups.** This might include original research or a review of landmine impact survey data, the UN’s Common Country Assessment and UN Development Assistance Framework, national and sub-national development strategies, sectoral plans and strategies, as well as research and analysis of other multilateral, bilateral and domestic and international civil society actors. We suggest that data, analyses and recommendations should be validated by careful cross-referencing and broad – based consultations with mine- affected communities and practitioners, and the results widely shared;

**2. to embed Mine Action into national, sub-national and relevant sectoral plans.** In the case of Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) this will likely be the PRSP or I-PRSP and related sub-plans. In all instances, these should be complementary to the wider effort to achieve of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

**3. to develop the legislative framework that will create an optimal ‘enabling environment’ for Mine Action.** Foremost among legal instruments, in our view, is the International Mine Ban Treaty (*Ottawa Convention*) whose articles impose obligations on State Parties and the international community. States not party should in some other way legally codify the obligations of the state with respect to mine affected populations, particularly landmine survivors and the families of both survivors and victims.

**4. to allocate available domestic resources to Mine Action and, when additional resources are required, to bring Mine Action forward as a development priority during Consultative Group**

*(CG) meetings, as well as in bilateral discussions/negotiations with the international development community.*

**5. to design and deliver substantial and effective Mine Action programs coordinated by national Mine Action Centres.** Activities should conform to the highest international Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and planners and programmers should have ready access to the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database to ensure interventions are based on the best information available. It is critical that National Mine Action Program Directors work closely with planning, finance, and sectoral (line) ministries to ensure that interventions are properly designed, targeted and adequately resourced;

**6. to address any management, governance and/or probity issues that might reduce the effectiveness or efficiency of Mine Action programming;**

**7. to ensure there are excellent reporting mechanisms and practices in place so that results achieved are apparent, and lessons learned can be incorporated into future programming decisions.** The use of resources must be both efficient and transparent. (It will be extremely helpful if donors are able to ‘harmonize’ reporting requirements);

**8 to effectively coordinate international, country and field level Mine Action activity and explore opportunities for collaboration.** At the national and sub-national levels, Consultative Group sub committees on Mine Action could be established in order to share information, explore common issues and, where appropriate, undertake joint-programming, perhaps through the establishment of a Sector Wide Approaches (SWAP) to Mine Action;

**9 finally to develop communications and ‘outreach’ strategies in order to increase understanding of and support for Mine Action among decision makers and the public at large.**

- - - Obviously this is not an exhaustive list of things to be done and we look forward to working with our colleagues in the Mine Action and development communities to refine our thinking.

VI In closing, we wish to report that Mine Action has been fully integrated into CIDA’s bilateral programs for **Afghanistan, Mozambique and Cambodia** which reflects the fact that these nations have themselves placed Mine Action as a national priority.

Approvals have also been received for substantial Mine Action projects in **Bosnia and Herzegovina, Tajikistan, Iraq, Sudan and Senegal**, and several other bilateral country programs look promising.

The Mine Action Unit has also just received our Minister’s approval of support for **12** new projects to be undertaken by Canadian NGOs and the Private Sector with their partners in mine-affected states.

We are finalizing a formal **Mainstreaming Strategy** which will be presented to Senior Management in the near future, which is expected to generate further interest, and just last week, received approval to cover the cost of the study on ‘mainstreaming’ being undertaken by the

UNDP and PRIO , along with support for the UNDP/GICHD study on capacity development in Mine Action and the study on Gender Perspectives in Mine Action proposed by UNMAS.

Finally, CIDA's President and Canada's Executive Director to the World Bank have been informed of the work of the Task Force, and will actively support our request for a meeting with Mr. Wolfensohn, and our efforts to engage other lenders and donors in the International Development Community.

With respect to the Bank, it is our understanding the 20% of the resources of the International Development Assistance (IDA) facility of the Bank, are offered as grants. Moreover, IDA loans are offered on extremely concessional terms.

Thank You.