



**Meeting of the Standing Committees established by the States Parties to
the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (21 – 25 June 2010)**

International Cooperation and Assistance – 25 June 2010

*Ambassador Stephan Husy
Director, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining*

Madam President,

Thank you for taking up this important issue of international cooperation and assistance. As you know, the GICHD's core mandate is precisely to support such cooperation. In partnership with others, we provide capacity development support, undertake applied research, and develop standards; all these activities are aimed at making mine action faster, cheaper, safer, more effective and sustainable. The GICHD serves as a knowledge hub, and there is increased demand for its services (e.g. it has recently been asked to take over the ITEP website and database).

With regard to the discussion paper on demining you circulated in advance of this meeting, I would like to emphasize four dimensions or issues which in our view should be more explicitly mentioned:

1. The importance of research and an internationally agreed research agenda (which doesn't really exist). I am not referring to academic research but rather to applied research, and to research which is not only of a technical nature but which covers the whole spectrum of mine action, including, socio-economics and legal affairs (e.g. liability and insurance in mine action).
2. The importance of data and information management on all levels: local, national and international. The mine action community should ensure that the right data are collected, shared, and thoroughly analyzed.

3. The importance of International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) which capture operational experience and which should be a reference for all cooperation and assistance efforts.
4. The importance of synergies in the field of mines, explosive remnants of war and cluster munitions. As much as possible, the knowledge, procedures and structures developed in the framework of the APMBC should be used in the broader sector, on a national as well as on an international level.

Madam President and dear colleagues,

It is clear that these dimensions require strong political commitment, planning and coordination as well as funding. In this regard, it is of concern to me that the dedicated thematic mine action staff and funds in donor governments become more and more an “endangered species”.

Thank you.