



Tenth Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Cooperation and Assistance

Statement by Ambassador Stephan Husy,
Director, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining

Mister President, distinguished delegates,

- The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining is very pleased with the emphasis being placed on the issue of cooperation and assistance. An on-going discussion on the needs of affected countries, the resources required, and how those resources can be mobilized in ways that promote, rather than inhibit, national ownership is indeed very important.

The GICHD has just released a report on 'Mine Action Funding: Trends, Modalities and Future Prospects' which indicates that donors are generally in favour of improved coordination, both among themselves and with mine affected countries. Such coordination should include all relevant actors, donors, affected countries, and international and national organizations, and should encompass cooperation on both geographic and thematic bases.

- In this context, we should not forget the importance of operational, socio-economic and management research, which remains crucial to making Mine Action faster, safer, more cost effective and sustainable. Although much progress has been made during twenty years of humanitarian demining there is still room for improvement.
- Research and knowledge development is not only important in the field of technology and operational methods, but also in measuring the socio-economic impact of Mine Action, on information management, on institution building, and on legal issues such as liability and insurance, contracting or land rights in Mine Action. Funding research and expert advice is an investment with a high return. The GICHD, as a unique centre of excellence is spending less than 1.5% of the global expenditures on mine action on such activities, which is (622 M. US\$ in 2009, according to the Landmine Monitor 2010). With this money, the Centre has, for example, helped to develop the land release concept, including the relevant international standards. This has had a huge effect on the speed in which land is handed back for productive use, and on reducing the costs of compliance with demining targets and obligations.
- The centre also believes that improved coordination, further research and information dissemination on gender and mine action is needed in order to ensure that mine action is

inclusive and takes into consideration the different needs, priorities and capabilities of affected women, girls, boys and men.

- The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining will continue to develop and disseminate knowledge and lessons learnt which promote informed, evidence based policy decisions and make a difference in the implementation of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention. We seek guidance from the States Parties for our work, as well as acknowledgement and support.

Thank you.