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12th Meeting of States Parties to the Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention

Geneva, 3-7 December 2012

Clearance

Statement delivered by Pascal Rapillard, External Relations and Policy
Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining

Mr President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Convention sets clear obligations regarding international cooperation and assistance. In addition to the bilateral assistance between two States Parties, Article 6 addresses cooperation in the form of exchange of information and expertise. Paragraph 6 states that *each State Party undertakes to provide information on mine clearance, especially information concerning various means and technologies of mine clearance, and lists of experts, expert agencies or national points of contact on mine clearance.*

The support and promotion of information-sharing is a core mandate of the GICHD. In 2011, the GICHD launched the so called LIMA - Links and Information for Mine Action. This electronic portal is a unique knowledge hub and a one-stop shop for the mine action community. It includes reports and publications of various types, a comprehensive mine action equipment catalogue and the former database of the International Test and Evaluation Programme for Humanitarian Demining, as well as contacts and links of organisations involved in mine action. On the GICHD website, you will also find the GICHD publications, a calendar of events, an international media review and much more relevant information. You can subscribe to Email alerts and RSS feeds which will keep you regularly updated.

The GICHD is also a venue for many mine action gatherings. The most important one is the annual International Meeting of National Mine Action Programme Directors and UN Advisers, organised jointly by UNMAS and the GICHD. The next edition will take place in Geneva from 8 to 12 April 2013. Another important operational event in Geneva is the biennial technology workshop, again co-organised by UNMAS and the GICHD. The



fourth edition took place from 4 – 6 September 2012, with a focus on Ammunition Safety Management and the use of UAVs for survey activities.

Finally, the GICHD is promoting linguistic programmes to better reach the relevant personnel in their countries of origin. Based on the experience with the francophone programme, the GICHD has initiated an Arabic-language Outreach Programme (AOP) for mine action in partnership with the Arab states and the Arab League. The purpose of this programme is to improve knowledge, exchange experiences and promote best practices throughout the Arabic speaking world. The GICHD organised the first Workshop of the Arabic-Language Outreach Programme for Mine Action in Dubai from 6 to 8 November 2012. The workshop gathered 40 participants from the region, representing national mine action programmes, international organisations, NGOs, research centres, militaries and commercial operators to discuss mine action challenges in the region. Based on the needs identified, the following activities are planned:

- collective mine action trainings and workshops in Arabic
- translation of the most important mine action documents into Arabic, in particular the international mine action standards
- an online platform in Arabic for information sharing.

Thank you for your attention.