

**Notes for ICRC Intervention on Cooperation and Assistance,
12th Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Convention
Geneva, 7 December 2012**

The ICRC thanks those States and organisations that have taken the floor under this agenda item and for the significant contributions they are making to the different pillars of mine action in affected countries.

International cooperation and assistance is a crucial part of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and represents a commitment shared by all States Parties to ensure the Convention's full implementation.

Assistance is not necessarily limited to funding but can also involve the exchange of equipment, technology, skills, expertise and experience. Landmine clearance and victim assistance programs have been underway in many affected countries for years and there is significant experience and expertise that can be shared with other affected States. Stockpile destruction is another area where, as we saw yesterday, fulfillment of the Convention's objectives has been impeded by a lack of effective and timely international cooperation.

The Convention also provides the possibility for States Parties to channel their assistance through the activities of international organizations such as the ICRC, or national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. A number of States Parties in their statements have highlighted the extent to which they contribute funds to mine action projects, including to ICRC programs. Much of this funding is raised by the ICRC's Special Mine Action Appeal. This annual appeal seeks financial support for ICRC programs to reduce the impact of mines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war on civilians in a number of States, including Afghanistan, Cambodia, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Iraq, Libya, Sudan and the region of Western Sahara.

We greatly appreciate our donors' contributions. However, we regret that again this year, funding received for the ICRC Special Mine Action Appeal fell significantly short of the amount required. In 2012, the ICRC sought 25.5 million Swiss Francs for its physical rehabilitation services and preventive mine action activities aimed at reducing the impact of weapons contamination. As of today, the 7th of December 2012, only 13.2 million – just over 50% of our Appeal - has been received, leaving a shortfall of 12.3 million Swiss francs.

According to our estimations, in 2013 the ICRC will need 24.9 million Swiss francs to support its physical rehabilitation and preventive mine action programmes in more than 20 countries around the world. Further information on our planned activities and budget for next year can be found in the 2013 Mine Action Appeal, copies of which were distributed earlier this week and are available upon request.

To ensure that the Convention's objectives are fully met, mine action programmes need to continue. Increased capacity and resources will be therefore required in the areas of clearance, victim assistance and stockpile destruction. We therefore urge all affected States, donor States, regional funding organizations and agencies to enhance their commitments to supporting the implementation of the Convention.