



***FOURTH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION
OF THE USE, STOCKPILING AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES
AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION***

GENEVA, 16 TO 20 SEPTEMBER 2002

**Statement by Ambassador Martin Dahinden
Director of the Geneva International Centre
For Humanitarian Demining**

Mr. President,

Since it started its work in 1998, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining has supported the objectives and the implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. It has done this by providing good offices, support tools and services.

An update of activities is being circulated that details the different types of activities carried out recently.

The Geneva Centre used the major part of its resources for providing operational assistance. Some of them will be referred to in more specific presentations during the upcoming consultations. The overall goal of our operational assistance is to enable mine-affected countries to cope themselves with the problem created by landmines.

Very closely linked to the operational assistance are the Centres' research activities, which provide solutions to specific problems identified by field practitioners. The projects typically produce specific output like handbooks, software tools, training etc.

The third area of the Centres activities is the work of the Implementation Support Unit, which the Centre has established under your mandate to support the Convention.

During the 4MSP you will find an information booth in the lobby right outside the meeting room. If you require additional information on the work of the Centre - please contact the staff at the information boot.

In conclusion, I would like to express my thanks to nations, the UN and other international organisations, as well as to non-governmental organisations, for their support and good co-operation with the GICHD.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Enclosure

Update on GICHD Activities between January and August 2002