

*Check against delivery*

**RESOURCE MOBILIZATION FOR MINE ACTION:  
NOTES FOR AN INTERVENTION BY CANADA**

5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the Ottawa Convention

Bangkok, Thailand, September 15 – 19, 2003

## **Resource Mobilization for Mine Action : Notes for an Intervention by CANADA**

I Thank you Mme. Chair, and our sincere thanks to Norway for having taken the lead in establishing the *Resource Mobilization Contact Group*, and for continuing to chair its proceedings so ably.

The work of the Contact Group has been invaluable in helping, first of all, to define the problem which - simply put – is that the need for resources for Mine Action continues to exceed the resources currently available...a situation that could become worse as more countries accede to the Ottawa Convention and assume its attendant obligations. As many have observed, the needs of the *developing* world are particularly acute.

We have spoken a lot about the need to ‘*mainstream*’ Mine Action. In Canada we have begun to mainstream Mine Action within the normal operations of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and our Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and are pleased to inform you that CIDA – with its access to discretionary program funds - has been able to treble its base contribution available under the Canadian Landmine Fund *for this year*, and that prospects look bright for the future.

It is roundly agreed that our community must reach out to a wide range of actors within the *International Development Community*, to convince one and all that Mine Action is both a humanitarian imperative and a clear and abiding *development* issue; - indeed, that the removal of landmines is nothing less than a pre-condition for sustainable development. We want everyone to appreciate that - in addition to being a full and legitimate sector of development unto itself – Mine Action is also cross-cutting issue that, in severely mine-affected countries, is essential to progress in many other development sectors including: *health, education, agriculture, forestry, water, rural and urban development, commercial and industrial development, infrastructure and infrastructure services, the environment, children’s development, gender, human rights, human security, governance, and overall economic development*.

II Canada is delighted that the Contact Group supports – among other things - the recommendation that a **Resource Mobilization Task Force** should be struck as part of a **Plan of Action** to engage the World Bank, the Regional Development Banks, Official Development Assistance Agencies around the world, key international and domestic NGOs, and the private sector.

We suggest that the Task Force should include representatives at the highest level of this community from developing and developed nations, and also a cadre of development specialists from both government and civil society who can address the issue from a development perspective.

The Task Force should make contact with as many key organizations and individuals as possible over the next fourteen months, with the objective of having them participate in the 2004 Review Conference where any lingering reservations they might have about increasing their involvement in Mine Action will be dispelled.

Our goal, however, should be to have them at the Review Conference enthusiastically describing the substantial Mine Action activities their organizations have already undertaken, and their even more ambitious plans for the future.

If we are to ensure success, we must be able to make the ‘development case’ in a clear and compelling fashion. Mme chair, Canada wishes to offer some thoughts which might contribute to our key messages to the international development community. In the interest of time, I will not impart them now, but attach them in summary form as an annex to the written version of our statement today, which is now being circulated. We hope these can be added to the thoughts of others on this important topic and that, after distillation, the Task Force will be armed and ready to put our community’s best and most persuasive foot forward.

III The existence of a Task Force, of course, must not diminish the work of States Parties to integrate or ‘**mainstream**’ of Mine Action into the normal operations all relevant government departments that can potentially play a role in Mine Action – especially development assistance agencies that have access to significant discretionary program funds. If they need more convincing that Mine Action is a development issue, then let us pledge to ensure that they are present at our meetings where we can involve them in this dialogue.

Most critical, however, are the ongoing efforts of **mine-affected states** themselves to establish Mine Action as a national priority fully integrated it into national and relevant sector strategies, and their willingness to dedicate substantial domestic resources to Mine Action. And when these are not enough, to put Mine Action forward as a priority in discussions with the international community.

IV We believe the way forward on resource mobilization has become very clear over the past year. Now is the time to put our ideas into effect. This is particularly important in the lead-up to the Review Conference which will be a seminal opportunity for this community – this issue - to once again capture the attention and the *imagination* of the world.

*(Annex 1: Proposed Key Messages to the International Development Community)*

## **Annex 1 : Messages to the International Development Community**

Mine Action is both a humanitarian imperative and a clear and abiding development issue. In severely contaminated areas, Mine Action is a precondition to poverty reduction and sustainable development.

### *Measuring the Full Impact of the Blast*

Landmines:

- (i) Kill and maim mostly innocent civilians, post-conflict;
- (ii) Divert scarce resources available for public health;
- (iii) Render land unusable for human habitation and agriculture;
- (iv) Cut off access to food, firewood and fodder for animals;
- (v) Contaminate soil and sources of water for consumption and irrigation;
- (vi) Prevent schools from being built and students and teachers from attending;
- (vii) Restrict the construction and maintenance of physical infrastructure including transport, communications, power generation and distribution, etc.;
- (viii) Inhibit industrial and commercial development;
- (ix) Discourage domestic and foreign direct investment;
- (x) Breed insecurity which poses a major obstacle to peacebuilding and stabilization;
- (xi) Are a blatant abrogation the most basic of human rights – the right to life, liberty and security of the person.

### *Appeal to the International Development Community*

We, 136 States Parties to the Ottawa Convention, participating non-state actors and practitioners involved in Mine Action, appeal to the International Development Community:

- (i) To undertake indepth research and analysis of the full impact of landmines in the development '*problematique*' in a given country, region or sub-region;
- (ii) To assist severely mine-affected developing states to establish Mine Action as a national priority and to build it into their national plan, as well as all relevant sector plans and strategies;
- (iii) To assist mine-affected states to address any governance and probity issues that might inhibit the efficient and effective use of resources;
- (iv) To design and deliver targeted, substantial and effective Mine Action programs in full partnership with mine-affected states and other bilateral, multilateral and civil society donors and development practitioners;
- (v) To ensure that Mine Action is on the agenda when participating in formal Consultative Groups (CG) discussions and other such fora;
- (vi) To participate in the establishment of mechanisms for the effective coordination of Mine Action activities;
- (vii) In appropriate circumstances, to establish a Sector Wide Approach (*SWAP*) in the area of Mine Action to ensure greater partnership and complementarity of effort among donors and government;
- (viii) To dedicate substantial resources to Mine Action and to encourage others in the broader development community to do the same;
- (ix) To support and remain fully engaged in Mine Action over the longer term –
- (x) To pledge not to rest until the last landmine has been destroyed and the last landmine survivor has been fully rehabilitated and reintegrated into his or her community.