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Thank you Madame President

The resource mobilisation contact group has been in existence since 2002. It is a forum for key stakeholders within the Convention to discuss matters related to resource needs in the efforts to achieve the obligations of the treaty. The primary objective of the Contact Group is to ensure that the States Parties' aims and activities are complemented by informed discussions on how to better identify and mobilise the necessary resources. This is particularly important, as more states parties are getting closer to the deadlines for fulfilling their Article 5 obligations, and for securing sustained flow of resources for victim assistance.

With Actions 44 – 46 in the Nairobi Action Plan, States Parties reaffirmed their commitments to identify and provide the resources needed to implement the Convention. Although there is a concern to maintain the high levels of external funding to mine action, Consultations in the contact group over the years shows that stakeholders to an increasing degree are concerned with how committed resources are being utilised. A key question has been formulated from the Contact Group; how do we ensure that resources invested are being utilised in the most efficient and effective manner?

This question has been guiding the activities of the Contact Group, and since the 6th meeting of States parties in Zagreb, consultations with mine action practitioners, from operating agencies, affected countries and donors, have been held to explore what increased efficiency and effectiveness actually means in terms of resource needs and use. Findings from these consultations have been presented in the draft version of the Geneva Progress Report, and in a more comprehensive Discussion Paper called Efficiency, Effectiveness and National Ownership in Mine Action. This discussion paper should be available from the secretariat, and we will of course welcome comments to it from any of you here.

The main findings from these consultations centers around issues of tools and standards, national ownership, local initiatives, tailored responses, donor responsibilities and improved understanding of the interactions between the different actors in mine action.

We need to develop, improve and apply methods that identify mined areas faster than today, so that scarce clearance resources can be put to use where they are most needed. Standards need to be used in a way that facilitate safe and efficient mine clearance, and not hinder local

demining initiatives. Donors must ensure that their funding practices facilitate and encourage true national ownership, which is crucial to secure sustainability of the programs. Donors should also ensure that their policies and practices in other sector and policy arenas supports implementation of the convention, rather than undermine it. These and other recommendations are presented in the Discussion Paper and in the Progress report.

Many of the discussions this week, for example on mine clearance, article 5 fulfillment and victim assistance, reflects itself in the resource discussions. While there is broad agreement in this community that external funding of mine action will be crucial to meet the objectives of the Convention, the consultations in the Contact Group shows that there may be a lot to gain from using the resources in a more effective manner, and from improving our ability to identify and recognize non-traditional contributions to the mine action programs, in particular from the mine affected states parties themselves. This will most probably be a requirement for securing continued external funding for mine action programs.

The consultations in the Contact Group show clearly that all stakeholders to this convention have a role in working towards increased efficiency and effectiveness of mine action programs. As Coordinator we hope that the discussions in the contact group have been useful for States Parties and other stakeholders. Norway will continue the work in the Contact Group over the coming year, to identify what concrete measures States Parties and other actors may take. This will include discussions and work-shops in mine-affected countries with approaching Article 5 deadlines, based on the recommendations referred to above, involving relevant national authorities, mine action agencies, the research community and civil society. These activities will complement the work within the established implementation work-program of the Convention, including that of the ISU and the work to integrate mine action within a broader development context.

Thank You