

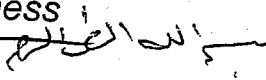


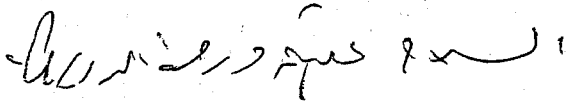
***Eight Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty  
Dead Sea, 18-22 November 2007***

***Sustainability of Resources for  
Implementation: The View from Jordan***

**COMMENTS BY**

***Jordan Delegation***

Thank you Your Royal Highness  
Thank you Mr. President   
Excellencies, Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen....



Mr. President, I would like to share with you how Jordan has recently gone about mobilizing resources and support for its mine action programme. Mr. President, I wish to state from the outset, that I realize that no two mine action programmes are alike, so I do not mean to imply what I am about to say is the **only** recipe for success. But I do hope that there will be **some** food for thought in what I describe and that it might add, in some small way, in helping other mine affected states expand their donor base and ensure compliance with Article 5.

I should say that when Jordan started to demine, as instructed by His Late Majesty King Hussein in 1993, the responsibility fell on the lap of our Royal Engineering Corps. The Engineers did a great job, but were limited by a lack of machinery, spare parts, PPE, equipment, and training to really tackle the problem in a complete manner.

As I am sure many of you know, in the early days of mine action it was difficult for militaries to get humanitarian funds for demining. Eventually, international resources were provided to the Engineers, however it was at a very limited scale and was allocated on an *ad hoc*

basis. Naturally, this made it hard to plan and keep demining operations moving the country. Added together, this resulted in a programme trying its best, but not really moving along as quickly as we would have liked.

Mr. President, although we got off to a slow start, my Government was watching the Article 5 clock. It realized that the 10 year completion deadline was approaching quickly, and given the amount of work that needed to be done, we needed a new approach.

Before I describe what I think are some of the key building blocks to this approach, I do want to say that a strong **national**, and I stress, **national** programme, needs a real sense of local **'ownership'**. A second key is the need for clear **'leadership.'** Be it the leadership demonstrated by King Hussein, His Majesty King Abdullah, the Chairman of the NCDR, HRH Prince Mired, or the different ministers who have a stake in ridding Jordan of landmines, the goal has always remained the same, a Jordan free of landmines.

Mr. President, with these general thoughts in mind about what needs to be done **domestically**, I would like to outline what we see as being **five** important ingredients to mobilizing **international** multi-year support.

**First**, mine action needs a home. Mr. President, on thing that really helped focus our mine action programme was the establishment of our mine action centre, which we call, the National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation – the NCDR. The NCDR was established in 2000, but didn't start operations until 2004. When I say operations, I mean, planning, coordinating, supervising, and liaising. With NCDR on the scene, there was finally and overall management structure...a 'store-front window' if you will.... where domestic and international stakeholders could come and discuss any, and all, issues related to mine action, ranging from clearance to universalization to community impact.

**Second**, we developed a roadmap of where we wanted to go. In our case it was a 5-Year National Mine Action Plan. There are a few points about the plan I would like to highlight. First, it was a very inclusive process. We could have easily locked our selves in the NCDR offices and hammered out a plan, but it would likely have been just another paper tiger. Therefore, we spent considerable time and effort in developing the 'process' of drafting the plan. Under the leadership of our Chairman, Prince Mired, we were able to meet with high level government officials. This included the Prime Minister and Ministers of Agriculture, Education, Foreign Affairs, and Planning and International Cooperation. We also met with the Jordan Valley Authority, the private sector, and local communities to try and get a clear picture on the future impact of mine clearance and

ensuring it was coordinated with other important development activities in the country. The second point I would like to make is that we used the over-arching responsibilities of Jordan under the Convention to infuse a sense of urgency and drive behind our operational targets in the plan. Third, we structured the plan in a project format. What I mean by that it is, we broke down each pillar into smaller, fundable projects, with timelines, budgets, and activities all explained in a one page format. We found that our partners could understand the logic and structure of this approach and how it fit into the grand scheme of how and why it was being proposed.

**Third**, another big challenge was having the capacity of the NCDR to implement and execute the various aspects of the plan. In this area we have not been shy to ask for strategic assistance in strengthening our national capacity. We have partnered with a variety of governments, international organizations, and NGOs to development specific gaps in our management capacity. By taking this approach we have tired *ried* <sup>to</sup> ensure that we remain firmly in the mine action driver's seat, while at the same time benefiting from advancements made at the global level.

**Fourth**, receiving support is one thing. Spending it wisely and doing what you said you were going to do is another. Delivering on promises made through project proposals or

national plans is vitally important. Donors do not like to see their funding sitting idle or not delivering on expected outputs. We therefore dedicated a great deal of energy to reporting regularly to our partners on what we are doing and what has been accomplished with their support. In support of our efforts to remain highly transparent and accountable, we hold quarterly donor-government briefs which are open to all our partners and widely covered in the local media. We also publish a regular newsletter which is sent out via email to our over-seas friends.

**Fifth,** ... possible, we try to demonstrate both the humanitarian and development impacts of removing landmines and returning contaminated lands to mine affected communities or opening them up for the private sector. Although we at the NCDR are very aware of our 2009 Article 5 deadline, we are also keenly aware that in our country access to land and the elimination of the threat of landmines cannot wait.

Mr. President, in conclusion, I would just like to close with one last thought. When it is all added up, it comes down to the **trust** and **credibility** to get the job done using as much of what is available domestically and delivering on what has been promised. I think if this is done, the necessary support will follow.

Thank You Mr. President. Shukran

