



Second Review Conference of the States Parties to the
Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production
and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and Their Destruction

Cartagena, 29 November – 4 December

High Level Segment

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Madame la Présidente, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs,

La mise en œuvre de la Convention sur les mines antipersonnel démontre l'importance et le succès d'une coopération stratégique entre les Etats Parties, les organisations internationales, les ONG, ainsi que les operateurs pour parvenir a des résultats tangibles. Les progrès réalisés à ce jour sont considérables et encourageants. La vision d'un monde sans mines devient un objectif réaliste. Néanmoins, ce sommet a souligné les défis qui demeurent. Le Plan d'Action de Cartagena est ainsi ambitieux.

Capacity building support for national mine action programmes will remain key to achieving our goals. In partnership with others, the GICHD will continue to provide the services needed to enhance the capacity of countries and of mine action professionals to formulate coherent strategies and to implement effective and efficient mine action programmes. Professionalism is a precondition for donor's cooperation and assistance.

Mine action activities should be guided by strategic plans addressing the challenges of all explosive remnants of war. After all, clearance activities in the field are rarely restricted to a specific type of ordnance.

The initial mine action focus is humanitarian. However and in order to be sustainable, mine action programmes need a broader approach, taking into account a country's post conflict situation, the evolution of its institutions as well as its development perspectives and priorities. We therefore encourage national authorities to integrate mine action into their overarching development strategies. Thus, taking over national ownership and ensuring a maximum return on investment by the intended beneficiaries. Moreover, we have learned that diversity sensitive approaches do create added values for women and girls, boys and men.

National ownership and inter-ministerial co-operation is crucial also for victim assistance. Mine action programmes can enhance national efforts, particularly in the field of acquisition and provision of information as well as by supporting advocacy and resource mobilisation.

The success of mine action programmes depends on appropriate methods and tools, on making use of best practice and on a professional management. In order to comply with Article 5 obligations, States Parties increasingly have to focus on an effective and efficient allocation of mine action resources at the national, provincial and local levels. One of the major challenges thereby, is the reduction of suspected hazardous areas. The GICHD takes a leading role in helping to ensure, expensive clearance resources are deployed to areas with the greatest likelihood of finding mines and explosive remnants of war. The Centre's work involves both research and outreach to assist states and programmes in the development of land release techniques and policies. Moreover, specific attention has to be given to in-

formation management. This does not imply specific computer systems. However, a thorough assessment of information requirements is vital. Therefore, our Centre supports mine action programmes also in the field of information management and provides the Information System for Mine Action (IMSMA).

In addition, let me underline how relevant the methods and tools developed against anti-personnel mines are for the implementation also of other international instruments related to mines and explosive remnants of war, particularly the newly adopted Convention on Cluster Munitions. It is my sincere hope that we will be able to make use of lessons learnt and moreover, to replicate the stigmatizing effect the Mine Ban Convention has had on anti-personnel mines also in the context of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Madame President, the GICHD is committed to contribute substantively and substantially to the implementation of the Cartagena Action Plan and stands ready to support States Parties with its expertise and experience. At the same time let me thank all our donors. Your continuous support helps us making mine action more effective, more efficient and safer.

Thank you, Madam President