

Cartagena Summit on a Mine Free World

International Cooperation and Assistance

Statement by CANADA

Thank you Mme. President,

- 1. I must begin with an apology to those who attended the panel presentation held during the launch of the UN Portfolio of projects, as I intend to subject them to some of the remarks I made there yesterday; some that I think are germane to this discussion.**

- 2. The availability of human and technical resources required to undertake all elements of mine action – clearance, stockpile destruction, victim assistance, risk education and advocacy – is to a great extent, dependent upon the availability of adequate financial resources –a topic foremost in our minds as countries around the world cope with a global recession.**

- 3. Even so, in the recent history of the Convention, we have done pretty well. After a slight drop in global funding for mine action in 2007, in 2008, we reached our highest ever collective total of \$626M - with over \$100M from affected countries themselves, although most are developing nations, and an additional \$500M in International Cooperation and Assistance from a relatively small number of countries in a position to provide assistance.**

- 4. We have continued to have strong support in part, I believe, because some states have maintained thematic funds specifically for this purpose while, at the same time, they have diversified their funding sources.**

- 5. Part of their success in diversification lies in producing solid evidence of the multi-dimensional nature of the landmine problem – illustrating not only the direct impact on people, but the nature and extent of the indirect impact as well.**

6. In Canada, for example, we have integrated mine action into ongoing peace and security programmes undertaken by our Department of Foreign Affairs.

7. Yet the greatest source of funds, by far, has been the Canadian International Development Agency. This has happened because some affected states have established mine action as a development priority; essential to helping them to meet their immediate development objectives and the longer term Millennium Development Goals.

8. It is critically important, therefore, that the humanitarian and development impact of mines and ERW is carefully analyzed and assessed and that, when and - where warranted, mine action is included in the national and sector plans and budgets of affected countries and, similarly, into the plans and budgets of the international donor community – the World Bank and Regional Development Banks, UN agencies, national donors, international organizations and NGOs.

9. But resources of this or greater magnitude will not be mobilized, without the will of decision makers and the public around the world.

10. Some say that it is yesterday's issue. Tell that to the people still living with mines, or practitioners who put their lives on the line to remove them, or to survivors who struggle to prevail over their injuries every day of their lives;

11. Some will say our goal can't be achieved without all states in the Convention. --Ten years ago no one could have imagined that we would already have more than 80% of the world's nations on board and more to come.

12. We are encouraged that so many non-party states are here as observers and we must continue – at every opportunity - to encourage them to join the Convention and to respect the international norms the Convention has established, until they do.

13. We must remain committed and determined to get the job done.

14. And I would like to add to that, a world free of cluster munitions and all manner of devices that are either inherently indiscriminate or prone to indiscriminate effect;

--Weapons that kill and maim thousands of innocent men women and children who wish only to go about their lives in safety and security.

Thank you.

*Earl Turcotte
Cartagena, Colombia
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