



International Cooperation and Assistance for achieving the Convention's aims
Jordan Statement

Second Review Conference – Cartagena Summit, November 2009

Madame President,
Your Royal Highness,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies & Gentlemen,

I would like to begin by taking this opportunity, on behalf of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, to thank the Government of Colombia for the gracious and warm hospitality extended to us in the beautiful city of Cartagena. Jordan also would like to congratulate Her Excellency Ambassador Susan Eckey of Norway upon her election as President of the Second Review Conference, and express Jordan's high regard for her long-time commitment and dedication to achieving the aims of the AP Mine Ban Convention.

In agreement with the Cartagena Action Plan that outlines Actions for International Cooperation and Assistance for achieving the Convention's aims, Jordan recognizes that *fulfilling its obligations as a mine-affected State Party requires sustained substantial political, financial and material commitments, in accordance with its obligations under Article 6 of the Convention.*

Jordan would like to remark on the Convention's accomplishments in Cooperation and Assistance since the First Review Conference. Undoubtedly, the greatest accomplishment in our view has been the sustained commitment by States Parties – both affected and non-affected – to provide all forms of assistance and cooperation over the past 5 years, enabling States to make great strides toward meeting their obligations to the Convention.

In Jordan's case - where our progress in mine action brings us almost to the end of the road in mine clearance and with the development of national capacity, closer to reaching our goals for improved victims assistance and mine risk education programs and services - these achievements would not have been possible without the support – both technical and financial - by local and international partners. This network of support has been vital to Jordan's Mine Action program. However, we sincerely believe that assistance must come with responsibilities. The recipient State must also reciprocate – and win the trust of donors - by demonstrating long-term commitment, provide capable leadership, and prioritize their national programs in line with development goals of their country.

Since the First Review Conference, Jordan has – by attempting to fulfill these conditions – seen this commitment welcomed by donor countries, consequently, increased assistance and cooperation has been forthcoming. Jordan's Mine Action program has, over the years, been fortunate to have received support from over 22 countries – current funding partners include Australia, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Japan, Norway, Switzerland, the United States of America, and the European Commission. We should also never underestimate the importance of support provided by international organizations such as the ICRC, UN, GICHD and Implementation Support Unit (ISU) and James Madison University Mine Action Information Center.

Jordan respectfully recommends other affected States that have difficulty sustaining assistance, to look first inwards at their national programs, and see where *they* can make changes. Jordan's list of ingredients - if you will - in attracting and sustaining assistance and cooperation through national prioritization, leadership, commitment and above all transparency, are - we believe - a recipe for success. The national authority recently completed an external independent audit by Deloitte; the



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aim of this self-imposed audit is to increase transparency, credibility and confidence in the national authority for donors.

As a result of the generous cooperation and assistance provided to Jordan for building its internal capacity and performance, the National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation (NCDR) we feel is now nationally and institutionally in the position to undertake Action no. 36 of the Cartagena Action Plan - to promote technical cooperation, information exchange on good practices and other forms of mutual assistance. To this end, NCDR held its first Explosive Remnants of War International Senior Managers Training Course in Jordan last month for 30 senior managers of national mine and ERW action programs; the course has a global scope and Jordan welcomed participants from 20 countries. The course is coordinated by the NCDR and draws on experts from the United Nations Development Program, James Madison University, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, ISU, International Committee of the Red Cross, and Norwegian People's Aid. The first course in 2009, and a second course in 2010 have been generously funded by the US Department of State. Jordan hopes to be able to continue to offer technical and management training after 2010.

Jordan has been fortunate to be the recipient of a great deal of assistance. Naturally, we hope we can continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our partners to complete the tasks we still have remaining. However, there are many affected States Parties with immense landmine problems and a great number of survivors who have an even longer way to go to meet their obligations to the Convention, yet they do not receive adequate support.

Madame President, last year, 15 States Parties requested extensions to their Article 5 obligations. These requests were granted although many of these States were frank in their need for a great deal of assistance in order to get the job done, but with no firm promises of support. Cooperation and Assistance is a two-way street. Under the Convention and as stated in the Cartagena Action Plan, affected States Parties have an obligation to make their needs known and demonstrate commitment and transparency to donors. States Parties in a position to do so also have an obligation, to promptly assist those States Parties that have communicated needs for support, providing where possible multiyear funding, paying particular attention to the needs and circumstances of the least developed States Parties and ensuring that all pillars of Mine Action, particularly Victims Assistance, remains a high priority.

Providing sustained and sufficient cooperation and assistance to those States Parties who have stated a need for it, and proven that they are willing to meet their obligations is one of the Convention's greatest remaining challenges relative to Cooperation and Assistance. Jordan calls on all States Parties – both affected and non-affected - to meet their obligations for international cooperation and assistance for achieving the Convention's aims.

Lastly Madame President, Jordan would like to extend its sincere thanks for all assistance provided to Jordan's mine action program, and stands ready to provide every possible form of cooperation and mutual assistance to mine affected States.

Thank you Madame President.