



Review of the Operation and Status of the Convention

Cooperation and Assistance (Monday 30 November)

During the past 5 years the United Nations has, in cooperation with a large number of partners, provided assistance to 68 affected countries and territories, of which 51 are States Parties to the Treaty.

Leading up to this Review Conference the United Nations Mine Action Team reviewed its 2006-2010 strategy to gauge the effectiveness of the cooperation and assistance it has provided. The preliminary findings, which are based on responses so far received from 30 countries and territories, are available outside, as is a longer version of this statement. We would like to highlight a few salient points.

With regards to cooperation and assistance with the aim to reduce death and injury. The survey shows that casualties are indeed decreasing in 22 of the responding countries and territories. However, there is not a single trend as increases have been reported in 8 of them. Overall, our findings do indicate that headway has been made to reduce casualties.

With regard to cooperation and assistance with the aim to mitigate the risk to community livelihoods and expand freedom of movement. 91% of the respondents agree that mine action has facilitated humanitarian and development activities, thereby expanding freedom of movement and enabling socio-economic development.

However, disturbingly, our findings show that one of the most commonly identified causes for the increase in casualties in some countries is the pursuit of economic opportunities. Trespassing into marked contaminated areas to collect scrap metals and firewood, for the purpose of herding, or to tamper with UXO to resell the parts are among the circumstances where casualties have been reported. This further underlines the intrinsic link between mine action and poverty reduction, and the need to view mine action as an integrated part of any development process.

With regards to cooperation and assistance with the aim to integrate mine action needs into broader development and reconstruction plans and budgets. 25 countries report that mine action has been integrated into national development plans, 28 countries have established national mine

action authorities and have associated national mine action strategies. However, evidence also shows that the articulation of the challenges posed by landmines and other explosive remnants of war is rarely reflected in overarching development assistance instruments such as the UN Development Assistance Framework or the PRSP, which provide the overall guidance for development cooperation and assistance and contributions to general budget support.

This lead us to believe that there remains a disconnect between thematic national planning and comprehensive development frameworks for cooperation and assistance between recipient countries and external partners. These disconnects need to be addressed in order to ensure effective and efficient cooperation and assistance in support of the aims of the convention.

The UN Mine Action Team will ensure that donors and affected states are informed of the UNDAFs that are up for review in 2010 and in subsequent years, and strongly encourage donors, as well as affected states, to engage in the consultation process to ensure that mine action is incorporated as part of the overall development agenda.

At the same time, affected States Parties must increasingly prioritize own resources. National investment in mine action activities will not only have an additional multiplying effect on their economies and foster employment and development, it also signals good governance and confirms continued political commitment.

To further these discussions, UNMAT supports the Zambian recommendation on the establishment of a Standing Committee on Resource Mobilization and Utilization, and further elaborated by the International Committee of Red Cross. UNMAT also supports the language in the Section on Resource Mobilization of the draft Cartagena Action Plan and is committed to continue its cooperation and assistance in a manner consistent with the Actions contained therein. These efforts should also be in line with the Paris declaration and associated efforts on aid effectiveness.

The United Nations Mine Action Team remains committed to improve and continue its assistance and maintain its broad cooperation with all partners to achieve our common goal of a mine free world.