

**Statement by Norway on Mine Clearance
Geneva, 28 May 2002**

Thank you, Mr Co-chair.

Norway would like to express its support and appreciation to the presentation given by Ms. Anne Cappelle, providing us with a usseful approach to dealing with the mine clearance challenge.

It serves as a reminder to us all that the task that we have taken on to free the world of anti-personnel landmines is a big one. Our aim to clear all APMs within 10 years of the entry into force of the Convention is ambitious and optimistic, to say the least.

The humanitarian imperative under which we work must therefore guide our resources and our efforts to the clearing of those areas with the greatest humanitarian impact. This requires, on the one hand, the active use of impact surveys, and on the other hand, the follow-up of the survey results through national strategic planning. In this way, we may be able to direct donor funding to the highest priority areas for humanitarian demining, and thereby ensure the highest possible efficiency in the use of time and national and international resouces, to reach the goal of ending further human suffering as soon as possible.

Thank you.