

**Statement by Dr. Annika Thunborg, Sweden, to the Meeting of the  
Standing Committees of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty,  
Cooperation and Assistance, 11 May 2006**

---

Let me elaborate a little on the fundamental principles on which Sweden's policy for mine action rest in order to advance the goal of a world free from anti-personnel mines. As we have said many times before in this and related fora, Swedish support to mine action is based on an integrated, mainstreamed approach.

The overall goal of our support for mine action is to make it possible for people who have been affected by war and conflict to return to their homes and create a tolerable existence under peaceful conditions. Mine action is thus a tool to reduce poverty and facilitate development for individuals and for nations. Mine action is an integrated part of humanitarian and of long-term development assistance programmes in post-conflict and underdeveloped regions. This integrated approach, we believe, is necessary for reaching the Millennium Development Goals.

National ownership is crucial if mine action is to be successful in the long run. Sweden thus supports countries' own efforts to remedy their mine or other ERW problem and is geared towards strengthening national institutions and structures and integrating mine action into national development plans. It is also important to have a dialogue between donors and recipients about commitments that follow from treaty obligations, for example from being a State party to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty to see to it that obligations for example under article 5 are being fulfilled.

As was said in the Second Dialogue linking mine action with development in December last year, it is increasingly important that mine action moves from supply-driven approaches, determined by donors and operators, to a demand-driven public service. This approach should be managed by national governments through their poverty reduction strategies and national development plans, responding to the needs of local communities. This is particularly important when a country is moving from an 'emergency assistance' phase to a 'development' phase. Some humanitarian mine action continues to be required but the large majority of mined areas are well known and should be considered long-term

---

developmental problems which the mine-affected country has the responsibility for itself. It is also important that mine-affected countries show their commitment to mine action by investing national resources into mine action.

Let me give a concrete example from Afghanistan where Sweden has identified mine action as a priority in the overall Country Strategy. Since 2002 Sweden has supported quality assurance in the UN mine action program in Afghanistan. A process is now starting to transfer the ownership of this program to the Afghan Government by 2007, and Sweden is assisting this process. 2 million euro over a two-year period is now being allocated to mine action in Afghanistan.

To answer the specific questions in your questionnaire, let me say that the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) has allocated more than 11 million euro to mine action, mine clearance and mine risk education between January 2005 and today. Organizations such as UNICEF, UNMAS, UNDP, GICHD and NPA have received 2.5 million. 8.5 million have gone to UN organizations and international NGO's in 12 mine-affected countries. These countries are Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cambodia, DR Congo, Eritrea, Iraq, Nicaragua, Senegal, Somalia, and Sri Lanka. The share from the humanitarian budget is approx 65 %, whereas the share of development assistance or regional funds as we call is approx 35 %. It is important to note that peace-building and peace support in Sweden are included in the humanitarian assistance budget. In addition, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs has contributed more than 2 million euro for mine action to or via UNDP, UNMAS, GICHD, Geneva Call for its project in the Philippines, Mine Action Canada, and the ICBL for the Landmine Monitor Report.

Sweden's support to mine survivors is an integrated part of our development assistance to health and to the health sector. This assistance is provided for care, rehabilitation, social integration and economic integration. The two latter elements include for example psychological support, support to disability organizations, skill and vocational training, income generation, and small business programs. The funds go to for ex the ICRC, UNICEF, and UNDP with beneficiary countries such as Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia Herzegovina, Cambodia, Mozambique and Nicaragua. More detailed information about our activities can be found in our latest Art 7 transparency report.

---