

**STATEMENT BY MR IAN MANSFIELD****DEPUTY DIRECTOR****GENEVA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMANITARIAN DEMINING  
(GICHD)****ASSISTANCE TO MINE AFFECTED STATES PARTIES –****CLEARING MINED AREAS**

Mister President,

The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) welcomes the document “Draft Geneva Progress Report 2009 – 2010”, and the information it provides on the actions taken by States Parties to fulfil their Article 5 obligations, and also to achieve the respective action points in the Cartagena Action Plan. As noted in the Cartagena Action Plan, the GICHD is one of the actors who are in a position to provide assistance to States Parties. Therefore, I am pleased to provide a short update on the relevant aspects of our operational work in helping States Parties to achieve their obligations.

**Standards**

Paragraphs 51, 60 and 101 mention support for the International Mine Action Standards, or IMAS. The IMAS provide a frame of reference that encourages the sponsors and managers of mine action programmes and projects to achieve and demonstrate agreed levels of effectiveness and safety. The GICHD manages the development and updating of the IMAS on behalf of the United Nations. Over the past six years, the GICHD has also developed an outreach programme and training package to assist mine-affected countries develop their own national standards, in order that they meet in particular their obligations under Article 5 of the Treaty. In accordance with action 15 and 35 of Cartagena Action plan, in 2010 the GICHD has assisted Afghanistan, Colombia, Guinea Bissau, Iraq, Mozambique, and Yemen with the review and development of their national standards. There are currently national standards from 11 countries posted on the IMAS website. In addition, the GICHD assisted with the update and review of the Mine Risk Education standards.

**Information Management**

The Geneva Progress Report highlights making best use of management tools, such as the Information Management System for Mine Action, or IMSMA. The GICHD has produced IMSMA as a standard database for collecting, storing and analyzing mine action data. The system is now deployed to over 50 countries or programmes, and six training centres, and is regarded as the “standard” system by the United Nations. Stronger partnerships with UNMAS, UNDP and other relevant actors in relation to broader information management have been established in recent years. The GICHD provides installation of the system, operator training and system development. The Centre has also revised and improved our method of field support, by making greater use of partner organizations, establishing a user forum and an on-line help desk that now handles many calls per week. For the past two years the GICHD has placed priority on the installation, training and full functioning of the latest version of IMSMA in Afghanistan.

This was a large task given that over 20 years of data had been stored in more than three separate data bases. I am pleased to advise that the new system went fully operational last week. The next priority country will be Cambodia.

### Technology

In September this year the GICHD, along with UNMAS, hosted a technology workshop for national authorities and field operators. The workshops covered a wide range of practical topics, and provided an opportunity for operators to see first-hand a range of new equipment. Since the Cartagena Summit, the GICHD has published its regular equipment catalogues on detectors, protective equipment and machines, and steps are underway to put these catalogues on line. The Centre has also assisted a number of countries to undertake equipment trials. In July this year the GICHD took over the website of the International Test and Evaluation Programme (ITEP) at the end of its ten year mandate and we will continue to post the results of future equipment trials on our website and link the information to our equipment catalogues.

### Land Release

Paragraph 48 highlights the value of States Parties making use of the full range of practical methods to release more rapidly areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. The GICHD has made the issue of land release a priority and is undertaking a wide range of work. A publication on non-technical survey methods was released in 2007, and a follow-on publication on technical survey is due out early next year. The GICHD has provided training and outreach on the three international standards on land release which were approved in 2009. We believe that the application of sound land release principles will be the key to States Parties achieving their Article 5 obligations, as well as the relevant objectives in the Cartagena Action Plan. During 2010 we have provided advice on land release to Cambodia, Bosnia, Chile and Croatia.

### Development of National Strategies

Finally, in paragraph 52, the importance of States Parties developing sound national mine action strategic plans is emphasized. The GICHD provided significant assistance to Cambodia in the development of its new national mine action strategy - formally adopted within the past month – and in the past has provided advice to a number of States Parties including Afghanistan, Bosnia and Chile. Plans are underway to assist at least DRC and Sudan with their strategies in 2011.

Mister President.

The GICHD notes with satisfaction the encouragement mentioned in the Cartagena Action Plan for the GICHD (and others) to continue to provide “invaluable support” to the work of the States Parties. As an expert organization, we will continue to provide such support to our main partners are the national mine action authorities in affected countries, in coordination and cooperation with the United Nations on one side, and with national and international organizations on the other.

Thank you.