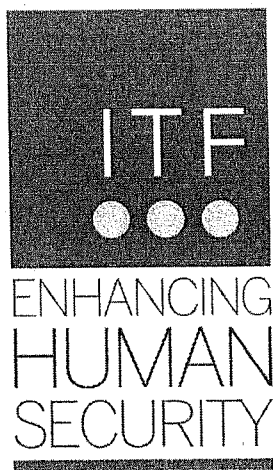


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STATEMENT

BY

Mr. Dorijan Maršič
Director
ITF Enhancing Human Security

AT THE

12 Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Convention
3 – 7 December 2012, Geneva, Switzerland

Mr President your Excellency Mr. Kovačič, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,
dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the ITF Enhancing Human Security, I'm glad to be present at the twelve meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Convention.

At first (Firstly) I would like to congratulate and thank Republic of Slovenia, our founding government and Ambassador Matjaž Kovačič for holding the presidency of the 12th MSP.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to use this opportunity to briefly inform and update the chairmanship of the Convention, the States Parties to the Convention and all participants on the implemented mine action activities supported through the ITF in 2012 .

ITF has been, under current Mine Action Strategy and expanded mandate, active in 4 regions with mine affected countries, namely South East Europe, Middle East, Caucasus and Central Asia.

While the majority of clearance operations were supported through ITF in the region of South East Europe and the Middle East, other mine action activities were implemented in all four regions.

We would like to inform you that ITF signed memorandum of cooperation with Lebanon Mine Action Center in order to support Lebanon's efforts to meet the goals under the national strategy, thus clearing the cluster munitions by 2016 and mines by 2021

Further please note that during this conference ITF also signed memorandum of understanding with the recently established Palestine Mine Action Center in order to support the efforts to build the national mine action capacity and help clearing contamination in Palestine.

ITF would also like to draw your attention to regional approach in mine action that ITF has been developing and advocating for the last 13 years. As presented on side event during this meeting, we sincerely believe that such approach can contribute to the confidence building among nations exiting conflicts as well as avoiding duplication of resources and efforts, sharing of expertise and experience in solving unique mine problem, addressing crosscutting issues and improve security and confidence building.

We are proud to inform you, that ITF managed to reach almost 13 % of overall funds raised to be committed for mine victims assistance projects, however we have to stress that overall funds for mine action decreased ~~33.3%~~ from the 14 years average annual funds provided for mine action through ITF. Therefore we would like to join to numerous appeals expressed during this week for continued support of donor community for mine action in order to achieved the goals under Mine Ban Treaty and other disarmament conventions.

On behalf of the ITF I would like to use this opportunity to thank all donors which are continuing to provide through , for their undivided support in eradicating cluster munitions problem worldwide.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me conclude my statement by expressing ITF's preparedness to continue support mine action activities globally as well as actively contributing to implementation of Mine Ban Treaty to reach the end goal – World free of mines and explosive remnants of war.

Thank you for your attention.