



FBD/REP/F

Annual Report

on the
Work of the
Geneva International
Centre for Humanitarian
Demining

2001

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Introduction

The strategy adopted by the Council of Foundation in 2000 became fully effective in 2001.¹ The Centres' three pillars – research, operational support, and support to the Mine Ban Convention – were significantly strengthened, and they became more visible to the mine action community. An important landmark was the mandate given by the States Parties to the Mine Ban Convention to establish an Implementation Support Unit within the Centre.

Studies and other application-oriented research projects continued to be a significant part of the activity of the Centre. By the end of 2001 several studies were finalised and published or were in a final review. Knowledge gained by the different research projects has not only been published (mainly on the web), but very often also used to develop standards or to develop specific tools or techniques. The research on mine detecting dogs continued to be the most important single area of research. Another important project that started in 2001 is the study and catalogue on mechanical demining equipment. These major research projects aim at optimising the use and the combination of manual demining, machines and dogs in order to make mine and UXO clearance more efficient and cost-effective.

Operational Support was in 2001 – in terms of resources used – by far the most important pillar of activities.

The Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) remained the most important single project. This successful system is now running in more than 20 mine action programmes. IMSMA is now at a threshold, as its challenge is shifting from software development to long-term sustainability and better integration in the field. However, software development, carried out by the Federal Institute for Technology in Zurich, will continue in the years to come.

The formulation of International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) under a mandate of the United Nations continued throughout 2001. The UN endorsed a first series of 23 IMAS in September. These IMAS have now the status of official UN documents. In addition to IMAS the GICHD supports the UN in an outreach programme to ensure an efficient application of the standards in order to foster safety and quality in Mine Action.

Expertise of the Centre continued to be requested by governments and organisation in many technical areas. The demand was often bigger than the Centres' capability to respond. Unfortunately and for various reasons, the Centre was in 2001 not able to establish the planned evaluation capability.

The training activities remained comparatively modest. There was a growth in traditional areas like IMSMA and mine awareness. Conceptual work and planning for training of Technical Advisors and other persons in key positions is in progress.

¹ Strategy Paper 2000-2002.
Available at http://www.gichd.ch/about_gichd/background/index.htm

At their Third Meeting in Managua (18-21 September 2001) the States Parties to the Mine Ban Convention endorsed a mandate under which the GICHD would establish an Implementation Support Unit within the Centre. This mandate aimed to facilitate the work of the President and the Co-chairs and to provide more focused and effective services to the Ottawa-Process.

After the Council of Foundation had endorsed the mandate, an agreement was signed between the President of the Third Meeting of States Parties and the Director of the GICHD, a budget was worked out, and a manager for the Implementation Support Unit was appointed. The Unit became operational in early 2002.

The Centre gave – with low visibility – limited technical advice to initiatives to regulate the use of weapons (e.g. anti-tank mines, remnants of war).

The United Nations remained the Centres' most important partner institution. In addition, a formal relationship with the OAS was started at the end of 2001, under a Memorandum of Understanding. Co-operation with NGOs also increased in 2001.

With a present staff of 27 persons, the Centre has remained modest and has grown less than the tasks, the activities itself or the budget. Co-operation with other institutions and project-specific arrangements with specialists continued to play an important role. This policy allows the GICHD to control growth while retaining flexibility, and to respond swiftly to possible new tasks.

The newly introduced accounting system provided comprehensive control of both expenditures and contributions, and was of crucial importance as the financial implications grew parallel to its activities. As a result, the Centre closed its accounts with a positive end-of-year balance of some CHF 10,740.

I do not want to close without saying that the present strategy of the Centre, which is an excellent guideline for its work, is valid until the end of 2002. In summer 2001 a strategy review process was launched with the involvement of the Council of Foundation, the Advisory Board, and the staff of the Centre. This process should allow the Council of Foundation to adopt a new strategy by the end of 2002.

Geneva, 30 March 2002

Ambassador Martin Dahinden
Director

General Overview

1. The year 2001 was marked by consistent growth: the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) completed several studies and started new projects, it continued its efforts in disseminating the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) and carried out a number of evaluation and assessment missions. In addition, the Centre provided the framework for one session of the Standing Committees of the Mine Ban Convention (MBC) as well as for the fourth annual meeting of mine action programme directors and advisors organised by the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS). Finally, an important step was made when the Council of Foundation decided to accept the mandate entrusted by the States Parties on 28 September 2001 to support the implementation of the MBC.

Activities in Mine Action Strategies and Procedures

2. The GICHD continued its research work aimed at providing guidance and support to mine action programmes in the field. Such research studies are carried out on demand and are funded by donors on a project by project basis.

Completed Projects and Studies in Final Review

3. The **Socio-economic Study** analyses socio-economic factors in mine action and provides indicators of socio-economic impact and value, to help programme managers assess criteria for the setting of priorities and for the efficient allocation of resources. The study was commissioned and funded by UNDP. The main study has been completed and distributed, and a handbook is being finalised (see para. 10 below).

4. The **Training Needs Analysis Study**, funded by the United Kingdom (UK), analyses the pre-deployment training needs of international staff filling the posts of Technical Advisers or similar key positions in field programmes. The study results were sent to UNDP, UNOPS and UNMAS in March, and funding for the development of training modules has been agreed by the UK.

5. The **Study on the Destruction of PFM-1 Mines** aims to establish the hazards during the destruction of the stockpiles of such mines, since their liquid explosive filling is both toxic and corrosive. The first phase of this study was requested by UNMAS and was funded by the UK. The European Commission has requested and may fund a further study into the PFM-1 mine. This latter study may result in a delay to the implementation of a destruction programme, which will be project managed by UNDP, with possible technical assistance from the Centre.

6. The **Review of the Role of Mine Action in Assistance to Victims of Mines and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)** examined the role of mine action practitioners in providing assistance to mine and UXO victims, and develop recommendations for further development. The study has been accepted by UNMAS and is being printed.

7. The **Mechanical Equipment Catalogue and Database Project**, requested by UNMAS and funded by Germany, aims to establish and maintain a comprehensive catalogue on mechanical demining equipment. Details of some 30 mechanical equipment have been filed so far. A first edition of the new catalogue will be distributed in January 2002. A next edition will be available in early 2003 and a catalogue on hand-held mine detectors will be developed in 2002 as well.

8. The **Operational Needs Study**, requested by UNMAS and financed by the UK, reviews equipment needs of mine action agencies and identifies a priority list of global operational needs that could benefit from improved equipment, processes and procedures. The report on field trials carried out in Cambodia in July 2001 was completed in November, and publication was agreed with UNMAS.

9. The **Mine Awareness Education Media and Messages Study** examines the various types of media and instructional processes in use for mine awareness education. Parallel to this study, an analysis was carried out of the field utility of the "Superman Comic Book" and the related campaign, as an example of a particular mine awareness medium. Both studies were commissioned and funded by the United States (US).

On-going Projects

10. The **Socio-economic Handbook Project** is closely linked to the socio-economic study mentioned in para. 3 above. It aims to provide a handbook designed to simplify the analysis of socio-economic factors for field-based programme managers and other practitioners in mine action programmes. The project is being commissioned by UNDP, and it is foreseen to completion is foreseen for early 2002.

11. The **Mine Detection Dog Programme** includes the framing of United Nations (UN) standards for the accreditation, training, evaluation and use of mine detection dogs. It will also lead to improved operational use of mine detection dogs due to increased knowledge about critical aspects related to their use. Five draft standards have been sent to UNMAS for publication. Final reports are completed for the breeds and trip-wire studies, a bibliography has been assembled, and draft reports on the training and vapour detection sub-studies are undergoing final editing. New developments include implementa-

The **general principles** for GICHD studies and projects read as follows: Studies and projects

- a. must have an identified user need. Many studies or projects aim to rectify shortcomings identified by Programme Managers or field staff. Others may start from requests from governments or donors.
- b. must be independent of political, commercial or donor pressure.
- c. must be impartial, unbiased and as objective as possible. The aim is as far as possible to establish the facts.
- d. must be as thorough and far-reaching as possible, depending on the resources available. Where studies or projects have been limited in resource or time, this must be noted.
- e. must be as transparent as possible, bearing in mind the sensitivities of the subject. The organisation requesting or funding the study has the right to require that circulation of any reports or findings may be limited.

tion of a study on the use of filters to absorb explosive vapour, and linking the work on vapour detection by dogs to similar developments using African pouched rats by APOPO in Tanzania. Work on the effects of environmental factors affecting vapour detection is progressing. The programme includes the establishment of a Standards Monitoring and Assistance Committee to support introduction of and compliance with the UN standards by mine dog organisations. The whole programme was requested by UNMAS and is funded by Germany, Norway, Sweden, the UK, the USA, and the UN Trust Fund.

12. The **Afghanistan Mine Dog Study** will add field evidence to the research work being carried out in the above-mentioned sub-study on environmental factors. Due to recent development in Afghanistan, the programme was suspended, but will re-start it as soon as the situation permits. This study was requested by the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA). The final results were originally expected in spring 2002, but will be considerably delayed due to the situation in Afghanistan.

13. The **Mechanical Equipment Study** aims to establish the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of mechanical demining equipment. A relevant User Focus Group met in November, resulting in an extension to the scope of the study. Initial results should be available in autumn 2002. The study has been agreed by UNMAS and is funded by Norway, Sweden and the UK.

14. The **Revision of International Standards Programme** reviews and updates the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) of the UN, originally drafted in 1997. The project was requested by UNMAS and funded by the UK. The results achieved are as follows:

- a) The UN Mine Action Inter-agency Working Group endorsed 23 IMAS on 1 October;
- b) Eight IMAS remain in either interim or draft form, concerning mine detection dogs and test and evaluation;
- c) Seven IMAS are to be produced in 2002;
- d) An IMAS Review Board has been formed to continually refine, update and validate IMAS.

Criteria governing the selection of topics for GICHD studies and projects are that they

- a. must have field relevance.
- b. must lie within the core competence of the GICHD.
- c. must fit in with the GICHD work programme, i.e. they cannot necessarily take precedence over existing work.
- d. when requested by outside agencies, should have an agreed funding source.

Besides this research-oriented work, an “Outreach programme” has been conducted to facilitate and support the implementation of IMAS (see para. 32 below).

15. The **Donor Guidelines Study** aims to assist donors in ensuring they receive value for money and quality mine action from funded programmes. This study was requested by UNMAS and UNDP and is financed by the UK. A scoping study began in spring 2001, and the study is awaiting further modifications.

16. The **Benefits of Military-to-Military Co-operation in Mine Action Study**, commissioned by the US, aims to assess the long-term value of military-to-military training. Fieldwork has been complete following meetings with the relevant agencies of the US Government. The final report is scheduled for summer 2002.

17. The **Use of Military Organisations in Humanitarian Mine Action Projects Study** aims to examine the practicability of using military organisations, both international and local, for all forms of humanitarian mine action. This study is agreed by UNMAS and is funded by the UK and France. Work on this study began in December 2001.

18. The **Study on Symbols for Mine Action** will explore the need for symbols to represent humanitarian hazards, to amplify the information provided on threat assessment maps and overlays produced by information management software. The study will also examine the needs for other types of graphical information, such as terrain analysis. This study is being carried out in conjunction with RSMS and RMA Belgium and is financed by the UK and Belgium.

Planned Studies

19. The **Study on the Use of Remote Sensing in Mine Action** aims to assist programme managers in obtaining appropriate and affordable satellite and airborne data and imagery. This study has been included in the UN Portfolio of Projects. Donor funding is awaited.

20. The **Study on the Development of Local Mine Action Organisations** will focus on how best to create the conditions necessary for the formation of local mine action non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in mine-affected countries. This study is requested by UNMAS and UNDP and will be partly funded by the UK. Further funds have been requested from other donors.

21. The **Study on the Evaluation of Field Programmes** will explore the establishment of a basic framework for field evaluations, for use internally by the GICHD, and by other agencies. This framework will recognise that all programmes are different, but allow a more formal approach to evaluation, which will enable inter-programme comparison. Terms of reference have been drafted.

Operational Support and Assistance

22. The Centre's second core mission consists of providing specific operational support and assistance to on-going mine action activities and programmes, especially those run or assisted by the UN. Since the beginning of the year, several new activities have been started.

Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA)

23. During the course of the year 2001, two **new releases** of the IMSMA system were completed by the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, the software developer. New functions included inter alia the incorporation of regional data entry, an operational tasking tool, support for multiple co-ordinate

systems, improved print features, a data base quality assurance tool and enhancements to the accident/incident reporting functions. Existing installations of the system are being upgraded, as resources become available.

24. During the reporting period, **new installations** were made in Albania, with UNFICYP in Cyprus, in Ecuador, with UNMEE in Ethiopia, in Macedonia, with UNICEF in Northern Ossetia (Russia), in Peru, and Sierra Leone.

25. Besides the above-mentioned start-ups, IMSMA has been running in Azerbaijan, Kosovo and Yemen since 1999 and with a regional mine action programme supported by the German Government in Cambodia, in Chad, Estonia, with UNMEE in Eritrea, with UNIFIL in Lebanon, in Nicaragua, Rwanda, Somaliland, and in Thailand.

26. Furthermore, **training and technical advice** was given to IMSMA users in Colombia, Eritrea, Kosovo, Mozambique, Nicaragua Pakistan (for the UN demining programme in Afghanistan), and Rwanda.

One of the key problems in mine action is information (e.g. location of mined areas, types of mines used, location of incidents). The **Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA)** provides a "ready-to-use" tool for Mine Action Centres that covers their specific data collection and information management needs.

27. As of 31 December 2001, IMSMA was operational in twenty programmes world-wide. Additional versions are running at various training sites (e.g. France, Switzerland, UK, US).

28. The Centre – together with ETH Zurich, the IMSMA technical developer – held three central **training courses** in early April in Geneva, namely

- a) the second and third IMSMA Training Course within NATO's Partnership for Peace (PfP) framework. These courses were offered by the Swiss Government and were open for PfP Member States, and for countries using IMSMA already. As a result, 26 participants from 13 countries (four non PfP nations) were successfully trained;
- b) the first IMSMA Workshop, bringing together ten participants from six countries, in which IMSMA has been introduced in 1999 or 2000.

29. In addition, the Centre started a project aiming to improve the level of integration of the IMSMA system into humanitarian demining activities in the field. Relevant field studies were carried out in Kosovo, Thailand, and Chad. Their results and the fact that the IMSMA project shifted from software development to system integration made the Centre to take first steps towards the implementation of a Regional Support Centre initiative. In this context, a Memorandum of Understanding with the Organisation of American States (OAS) was signed, and the necessary measures were taken to allow the deployment of a Regional Co-ordinator in January 2002. This Regional Co-ordinator will be based in Managua, Nicaragua, will function as interlocutor for Latin America and will be in close contact with OAS.

30. The Swiss Government funds most of the costs related to the IMSMA project.

31. Finally, the GICHD started the **XML Project**. The goal of this project is to provide a mechanism for the exchange of data within the mine action community and between interested parties and domains outside of mine action. This would include UNHCR, WHO, UNICEF and other humanitarian relief and support organisations. In a first phase, the project will define a registry of mine action terms for use with the XML project by summer 2002. The project is funded by the US State Department.

International Mine Action Standards (IMAS)

32. As mentioned in para. 14 above, the first part of the IMAS project has entered the **Outreach phase**, which consists of a series of workshops, seminars and desk exercises to ensure appropriate understanding and application of the new standards. This phase is carried out on behalf of UNMAS and funded by the UK.

33. Regional briefings were held for Africa, the Balkans, Cambodia, the Middle East, Nicaragua, South and Central America, South Eastern Asia, and at the UNDP/Cranfield Senior Programme Manager Course. Additional briefings were given

- a) in the context of the International Meeting of Mine Action Programme Directors and Advisors in Geneva (February);
- b) at the European Union (CEN WG 126);
- c) at EXPLO 2001, the World EOD/Demining conference in the UK in April;
- d) at the Swiss Stockpile Destruction Management Training Course;
- e) at the NATO Regional Mine Action Workshop in Athens;
- f) to the UK Defence EOD School; and
- g) to the European Commission.

34. In order to facilitate the distribution of IMAS, the Centre has started to translate a set of IMAS standards into French with assistance from ESAG (Ecole Supérieure et d'Application du Génie d'Angers) in Angers, France. The relevant costs are borne by the Agence Intergouvernementale de la Francophonie in Paris. A first group of six core texts was published in September 2001. The UN is exploring the translation of IMAS into four further languages.

Technical Notes for Mine Action (TNMA)

35. With the agreement of UNMAS, the GICHD started the development and dissemination of the Technical Notes for Mine Action (TNMA). TNMAs are advisory documents designed to accompany or supplement the IMAS series, or

The GICHD has developed a documentation series for sharing information and increasing safety of demining:

- The **International Standards of Mine Action (IMAS)** provide practitioners and donors with an updated and revised framework of technical and procedural prescriptions for safe and effective mine action.
- The **Technical Notes on Mine Action (TNMAs)** are advisory documents designed to accompany or supplement the IMAS series, or act as an independent source of information. They provide principles, advice and information relevant to a specific IMAS or technical topic.
- The **TRITON Reports** contain information on cases where munitions (especially improvised devices and booby-traps) have been used in non-war situations. They form a system for warning deminers and EOD operators of potential future threats.

act as an independent source of information. TNMAs provide **principles, advice and information** relevant to a specific IMAS or technical topic. Although they use the same format as IMAS for consistency and ease of use, their status is different and they are advisory only, but based on the best available current practises, field feedback and technical information. TNMAs can be obtained from the GICHD website (www.gichd.ch) or through the UN E-mine website (www.mineaction.org). During the reporting period, ten TNMAs were published in 2001.

TRITON Reports

36. The TRITON Reports contain information on cases where munitions (especially improvised devices and booby traps) have been used in post-conflict situations. These reports also include incidents where recovered UXO and mines are being used in association with sophisticated initiation systems. These trends present a potentially significant threat to demining organisations, which may also have to disarm them in the future. TRITON Reports are a **system for warning** deminers and EOD operators of potential future threats.

37. The GICHD initiated and now manages the TRITON Reports project. Access to the TRITON reports can be obtained from the Mine Action Information Center at James Madison University on request. (www.hdic.jmu.edu)

Evaluation and Assessment

38. The Centre also offers its services to Governments and interested organisations to evaluate and assess actual projects and programmes, or components of such programmes. The Centre follows an impartial, independent and transparent methodology, and staff involved in such missions work in an as open and transparent a way as allowed by the framework set by the relevant organisations and programmes.

39. During the reporting period, the GICHD

- a) continued to evaluate the mine detection dog project carried out by the Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (SIDA) in Cambodia. This evaluation mission started in autumn 2000, and recent visits showed that a considerable amount of last year's recommendations were implemented and that the programme showed very promising results;
- b) evaluated Norwegian People's Aid's (NPA) mine detection dog programme in Mozambique;
- c) evaluated the German Project Co-ordination (GPC) "Integrated National Database" Programme, an on-going training project for the development and integration of the IMSMA System in Cambodia funded by Germany, on behalf of the German Government;
- d) evaluated the APOPO rodent research and development programme on behalf of the Belgian Government. This programme aims to analyse the possibilities of using rats for vapour detection of mines;
- e) evaluated the socio-economic impact of NPA's mine action programmes in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the period 1998 – 2000;

- f) carried out an assessment on the destruction of PMN mines in Ukraine for the Canadian Government. NATO will shortly award a contract for the destruction of these PMN mines;
- g) an assessment of stockpile destruction options in Yemen requested by the Canadian Government
- h) evaluated and assessed the mine risk in the appropriate programmatic responses in both mine awareness and advocacy for UNICEF offices in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

Consultancy

40. Staff members of the Centre, inter alia, provided

- a) advice on anti-vehicle mines and on explosive remnants of war at three seminars run by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC);
- b) assistance to a stockpile destruction course offered by the Swiss Government;
- c) assistance requested by the Canadian Government to the Asia Regional Stockpile Destruction Workshop;
- d) advice on the military utility of landmines at workshops in the US, Poland, and Mongolia;
- e) assistance on military humanitarian mine action, and advice on military use of landmines at workshops at James Madison University;
- f) a dog training workshop for staff at a Swedish dog training academy;
- g) advice on the future of technology in mine action to the EU Joint Research Centre;
- h) advice on user needs for remote imagery for IMSMA at RMA Brussels;
- i) advice to the Executive Committee of the International Test and Evaluation Programme (ITEP);
- j) advice on regional and international mine action co-operation and mine action assistance in countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for the ICRC;
- k) technical advice for a TV production agency aiming to produce a series of documentary programmes on demining issues;
- l) advice on the creation of a technical information network to the Free University of Brussels (Programme EUDEM 2); and
- m) a variety of talks to schools, universities and other interest groups.

International Meeting of Mine Action Programme Directors and Advisors

41. UNMAS' fourth International Meeting of Mine Action Programme Directors and Advisors took place between 5 – 7 February 2001 at the premises of the GICHD and was attended by representatives of 21 mine-affected countries, UN agencies, the World Bank, NGOs and observers. The participants analysed issues related to efficient and cost-effective capacity building in mine-affected countries. In addition, new developments in the field of information gathering and information management were presented, and new approaches to victim assistance and mine awareness were discussed. Furthermore, the participants identified topics for further research.

42. The meeting also provided donor countries with an opportunity – for the first time – to meet and discuss solutions directly with the programme directors responsible for mine action programmes in mine-affected countries.

Mine Ban Convention (MBC)

Intersessional Work Programme 2000 – 2001

43. The Centre continued to support the Presidency of the Second Meeting of States Parties to the MBC as well as the Co-chairs of the Standing Committees by preparing the May 2001 session. Over 350 participants attended the meetings of the Standing Committees.

44. The support provided by the GICHD consists firstly of making available the necessary organisation and venue for the Standing Committee meetings, and secondly of providing substantive input to the work of these Committees in different areas. Staff members of the GICHD not only informed the Standing Committees during the sessions, but participated also – inter alia – at the seminar on universalisation and implementation of the MBC in Africa, with a presentation on the Intersessional Work Programme. Furthermore, GICHD staff members co-chaired a workshop on stockpile destruction organised by the relevant co-chairs in Bamako in February.

45. In addition, the Centre administers a sponsorship programme on behalf of a Group of Donors. This programme allowed 47 delegates to participate at the May 2001 sessions of the Standing Committees.

Third Meeting of States Parties to the MBC

46. The Centre participated in the Third Meeting of the States Parties to the MBC, taking place in Managua between 18 - 21 September. Declarations on behalf of the Centre were made by the President of the Council of Foundation as well as by the Director. In addition, the GICHD has been included in the Rules of Procedure as observer.

47. At this meeting, the States Parties endorsed the “Paper on the Implementation Support for the Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines”. It foresees the following services to be provided by the GICHD in support of the MBC:

- a) Preparing and supporting meetings of the Standing Committees and the Co-ordinating Committee, including writing summaries and facilitating follow-up activity;
- b) Providing independent professional advice and assistance to the Co-ordinating Committee;
- c) Establishing a documentation and resource database facility on the Ottawa Process, Oslo Diplomatic Conference, Meetings of States Parties, etc.

48. The States Parties mandated the GICHD to establish an Implementation Support Unit (ISU) to take care of issues related to the MBC. On 28 September,

the Council of Foundation accepted this mandate entrusted by the States Parties and instructed the Director to take the necessary steps.

49. Once again, the Centre administered a sponsorship programme on behalf of a Group of Donors. Despite the particular travel situation after 11 September, 60 representatives of 36 countries were able to participate at the Third Meeting of States Parties thanks to this programme.

Other International Treaties

50. The Centre was represented at the

- a) Second and Third Preparatory Committee and at the open ended consultations of the Group of Experts of States Parties for the Second Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW).
- b) Third Annual Conference of the States Parties to Amended Protocol II to the CCW; and
- c) Second Review Conference of the States Parties to the CCW.

The GICHD continued to provide technical information linked to the ICRC initiative on explosive remnants of war, especially the functioning and effects of anti-vehicle mines and cluster bomb units.

Governance and Organisation

Council of Foundation

51. The Council of Foundation held its first meeting of the year 2001 on 29 May, during which it approved the Annual Report as well as the Centre's accounts for the year 2000. In addition, the Council took note of the planned policy review and of potential evolutions in the Centre's involvement with regard to the MBC.

52. On 28 September, the Council met for the second time, and accepted the mandate given by the States Parties in Managua (see para. 48 above).

53. The Council met for a last meeting on 7 December 2001, approved inter alia the Centre's budget for 2002, discussed a review report submitted by the Director on the Centre's strategy, and was briefed on the on-going implementation of the ISU and on the development within the IMSMA activities.

Under the chairmanship of Dr. Cornelio Sommaruga, the **Council of Foundation** unites 23 members representing Austria, Belgium, Cambodia, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Norway, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the Republic and Canton of Geneva.

The **Advisory Board** consists of 13 eminent persons active at various levels of the international mine action community. The Board is chaired by the Centre's Director and meets once a year to share views and experiences.

Advisory Board

54. The Advisory Board met on 4 May 2001 and addressed the role of the military in humanitarian demining, based on presentations made by Paddy Blagden (GICHD) and Martin Barber (UNMAS). In addition, the Board discussed GICHD's relationship with NGOs and identified several areas for improvement.

Internal Organisation

55. In March 2001, the Centre saw the departures of two seconded officers who were part of the initial GICHD team: Col Alistair McAslan (UK) and Lt Col Wolfgang Hirsch (Germany).

56. The German Government generously replaced Lt Col Hirsch by Lt Col Detlef Schröder, who started his two-year term with the Centre in early March. The UK Government has agreed to finance a new staff member, Mr Adrian Wilkinson, who has taken over the duties of Col McAslan.

57. The growing number of activities forced the Centre to increase the number of its staff: Four new positions were created during the reporting period. One technical expert joined the Centre for special research activities within the mine detection dog programme, two technical experts became active in the field of mechanical demining, whereas one person was recruited to fill the post of Regional Co-ordinator for Latin America.

58. As of 31 December 2001, the Centre consisted of 23 permanent staff members, including five persons seconded by the Governments of France, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, and the UK. In total, twelve nationalities are represented at the Centre (including staff members with more than one citizenship): Switzerland (12 persons), UK (5), New Zealand (2), Canada, Colombia, France, Germany, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, and the US.

Financial Overview

General Budget

59. For activities covered by the Strategy Paper adopted by the Council of Foundation on 26 May 2000, the Centre reports expenditures of some CHF 11.97 million, in which a carry-over to the 2002 accounts of some CHF 3.2 million is included. Consequently, the Centre used some CHF 5.5 million to cover direct operations cost, spent some CHF 2.4 million for salaries and social contributions, and invested some CHF 0.16 million for maintenance and acquisitions. Finally, services, administration and other costs used the sum of CHF 0.68 million.

60. During the reporting period, the Centre received some CHF 5.5 million from Switzerland, some CHF 2.4 million from the UK, some CHF 1.3 million from the US and a total of nearly CHF 1 million from Germany, Italy, Norway, and Sweden. In addition, various UN agencies contributed with a total of some CHF 1.3 million and the amount of some CHF 0.45 million was received from miscellaneous organisations, private donations or earned from other sources. Not included

in these sums are contributions in-kind, secondments of staff members to the Centre or other support provided directly to project activities.

61. As a result, the Centre's accounts for the year 2001 closed with a positive remaining balance of CHF 10,740.

Sponsorship Programme

62. The Sponsorship Programme aims to ensure more widespread representation from mine-affected and other countries at meetings of the Standing Committees within the intersessional work programme and at meetings of the States Parties to the MBC. The Centre administers this programme on behalf of a Group of Donors. The relevant accounts closed with a positive remaining balance of CHF 215,214. This sum is also carried over to the relevant 2002 accounts.

Voluntary Trust Fund ISU

63. On 31 December 2001, the Voluntary Trust fund in support of the newly established ISU showed a positive remaining balance of CHF 127,342. This amount was carried over to the respective 2002 account.

External Auditing

64. The General Budget as well as the Sponsorship Programme and the Voluntary Trust Fund ISU were audited by Pricewaterhouse Coopers, the external auditor appointed by the Council of Foundation.

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