



5 February 2007

## REPORT

### GICHD Advisory Board Meeting 6 November 2006

#### 1. Date and Venue

The GICHD Advisory Board Meeting was held between 14:00 and 17:00 hrs on 6 November 2006 at the GICHD.

#### 2. List of Participants

##### **Advisory Board**

Steinar Essen - Deputy Director, Norwegian People's Aid  
John Flanagan - Deputy Director Operations, UNMAS  
Shohab Hakimi - Director, Mine Dog and Detection Centre, Afghanistan  
David Hewitson - Director, European Landmine Solutions  
Oto Jungwirth - Director, Croatian Mine Action Centre  
Yasin Majali - Deputy to Director General, NCDR, Jordan  
Sara Sekkenes - Senior Programme Advisor, UNDP  
Steve Wilson - Deputy Director, Mines Advisory Group  
Paula Claycomb - Senior Project Officer, UNICEF

##### **Excused:**

Etsay Gebre Selassie - Director, Ethiopian Mine Action Office  
Heng Rattana - Deputy Director General, CMAC

##### **GICHD**

Ambassador Stephan Nellen - Director, GICHD/Chair of the Board  
Ian Mansfield - Operations Director  
Alan Arnold - IMSMA Programme Manager  
Havard Bach - Head of Operational Methods Section  
Ren  Faure - Head of Military and Francophone Programmes  
Eric Filippino - Head of Socio-Economic Unit  
Juliana Buzi - Programme Officer

#### 3. Welcoming comments and adoption of the agenda

The Director GICHD opened the meeting by welcoming the members of the Advisory Board and thanking them for their presence at the meeting. In addition, Ambassador Nellen introduced Ms. Paula Claycomb as a new member of the Advisory Board and informed the members about the resignation of Mr. Gunther Siebert Wendt. Another person is in process of being selected to replace him. The Director then presented the agenda of the meeting, which was agreed by all members.

#### **4. Presentation of the draft GICHD Action Plan 2007**

The Director GICHD introduced the draft GICHD Action Plan 2007, which has been prepared in line with the GICHD Strategy 2006-2008. He emphasized that *relevance* and *efficiency* are two of the main guiding principles of the Centre and efforts were made to reflect it in the Action Plan. In addition, he briefed the participants about the recent changes in the format of the GICHD Activity Report (which is now in a format consistent with the Action Plan) and the ongoing work on the new design of the GICHD website and publications.

Ambassador Nellen provided a general overview of the draft Action Plan 2007 and encouraged the participants to share their views, in particular with regard to the operational objectives 1, 2, 3 and 5.

#### **5. Discussions and recommendations about the Action Plan 2007**

Mr. Mansfield gave a more detailed description of the draft Action Plan by focusing on the most important projects. He explained that in accordance with the current 3-year Strategy, various projects were included under each of the overall strategic goals and objectives.

General comments and suggestions were then provided by all members. The members of the Advisory Board expressed their general appreciation of the work done by the GICHD in preparing the Action Plan, and the following points were noted:

- ✓ GICHD should consider adding an extra column in the Action Plan indicating the implementing partners and coordination partners of the respective projects. Where possible the GICHD should advise relevant national and UN partners of proposed missions.
- ✓ Better coordination at the headquarters level with the UN agencies before undertaking activities in mine affected countries, in order to maximise the benefit for all parties involved was recommended. A web calendar listing the activities to be undertaken by the GICHD was considered useful in this regard.
- ✓ It was agreed to add an activity related to development of a training module on application of the MRE IMAS.
- ✓ Cooperation in fundraising and exchange of information with the interested partners for specific activities in the Action Plan was suggested.
- ✓ The Centre was encouraged to have a more participatory approach and to involve the Advisory Board during the preparation of the Action Plan. This was agreed by Ambassador Nellen, who outlined that a more participatory process would be adopted in the future.
- ✓ The Action Plan should be focused in concrete measurable outcomes rather than outputs.
- ✓ GICHD should consider prioritizing activities in the Action Plan.
- ✓ The Centre should be ready to adopt changes in the nature of the activities and of the Mine Action environment.
- ✓ There should be a stronger consultative process with the mine action practitioners to ensure that the Centre is reaching its main goal of assisting to make demining faster, cheaper, safer and more effective.
- ✓ The Centre was requested to consider the possibility of designing a self-evaluation template for the national mine action programmes.

- ✓ Mr. Jungwirth requested the Centre to consider including underwater operations activities in its Action Plan.
- ✓ The Centre should regularly provide information about its new publications.
- ✓ Specific discussions and recommendations were made regarding the “Land Release and Risk Management Study” as it is considered a critical study.

## **6. Presentation and discussions about the GICHD Impact Evaluation**

Ambassador Nellen presented the draft ToRs for the GICHD Evaluation. The purpose of the evaluation is to assess the impact of the Centre’s work on its beneficiaries. The evaluation will initially be made in specific sectors covering the MDD and MRE programmes. The evaluation of these two programmes will serve as a test case for the evaluation of other major GICHD projects. The draft ToRs of the GICHD Evaluation were agreed by the members of the Advisory Board. The results of the evaluation will be shared and discussed in the next meeting of the Advisory Board.

## **7. Networking arrangements and next meeting**

Ambassador Nellen encouraged the exchange of information and sharing of opinions between the GICHD and members of the Board by networking between the meetings of the Board. The next meeting was agreed for spring next year, subject to the availability of the members. It was agreed that the frequency of meetings would be twice a year. The proposal to hold the next Advisory Board meeting in a mine affected country was noted. In addition, it was agreed to consider IMAS as a possible programme to be evaluated in 2007.

## **8. Concluding remarks**

The GICHD Director concluded the meeting by thanking the participants for their serious efforts and their active contribution to the meeting. He expressed the wish that this continues in the future, as it will be to the benefit of both the GICHD and mine action.