

## **Joint Declaration**

The Republic of Chile, member to all disarmament and humanitarian instruments of International Humanitarian Law, particularly to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, underlines their continued commitment to the total ban on anti-personnel landmines,

The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) working for the elimination of anti-personnel mines and for the reduction of the humanitarian impact of other landmines and explosive remnants of war, including cluster munitions,

The Republic of Chile and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining underline their strong cooperation in various areas:

- financial support by Chile to the work of the Implementation Support Unit of the GICHD,
- provision of the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) by the GICHD in March 2003,
- technical support by the GICHD for the training in mine risk education and in socio-economic approaches to mine action planning and management,
- membership of the former Chief of the Chilean National Demining Commission on the GICHD Advisory Board,

*The Republic of Chile and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining mutually agree to establish a GICHD Regional Support Centre (RSC) in Santiago de Chile,*

*The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining and the Republic of Chile confirm the importance of the use of the Information Management System for Mine Action,*

*The key function of the RSC will be the provision of IMSMA, a software developed by the GICHD, installed free of charge in mine affected countries, including in Latin America, which is aimed at giving a planning and operational support tool for mine action related work,*

*IMSMA supports the National Demining Commission through installing the software and its updates, through training activities of national staff, and through continued technical support,*

*The Regional Support Centre, through the GICHD headquarter, will further provide operational assistance, create and disseminate knowledge, improve quality management and standards, and support instruments of international law, all aimed at increasing the performance and professionalism of mine action in Latin American region,*

The Republic of Chile and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, recognising the critical moment in the implementation process of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, strongly underline the need to reinvigorate the spirit of partnership and cooperation among all States Parties, international organisations and the civil society.

Geneva, 4 June 2007