



## Press Release

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### **Developing Mine Action Legislation : A Guide for Governments and Mine Action Professionals**

Given the range of activities and actors involved in Mine Action, effectively addressing a country's mine/UXO problem requires coordination at national and local levels.

The primary responsibility for mine action lies with the government of a mine-affected State. This responsibility is normally vested in a National Mine Action Authority, which is charged with the policy, regulation and coordination of a national mine action programme. The operational arm of the Authority is the Mine Action Centre. This body is the focal point for mine action activities on the ground : it carries out policies and coordinates the day-to-day work of the various organisations and agencies conducting mine action operations.

The "Guide to Developing Mine Action Legislation" is intended to assist governments, mine action professionals and others to develop national legislation to coordinate and regulate mine action. It identifies the principal elements to be included in such a law and the issues which should be considered in its preparation. It informs about the structure and responsibilities of the National Mine Action Authority and Mine Action Centre. Finally, it points out the specific advantages of regulating mine action through national legislation.

A series of authorities will use the Guide as a working tool, including the Iraqi National Mine Action authority to which the GICHD will also provide training on the basis of the Guide early Spring 2004.

The information contained in the Guide is based upon the conclusions and recommendations of a *Study of National Mine Action Legislation*, published by the GICHD in 2003. The Guide is available in hard-copy in English, French, Spanish, Russian and Arabic. These versions can also be accessed on-line at : <http://www.gichd.ch/publications/index.htm>

For further information please contact :

#### **Davide Orifici**

Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)

Phone : + 41 22 906 16 91 – Mobile : + 41 79 747 10 57

[d.orifici@gichd.ch](mailto:d.orifici@gichd.ch)