



Press Release

Geneva, 30 March 2006

New GICHD Statutes have entered into force

Wider representation of mine-affected countries in Council of Foundation and Advisory Board

Following the decision of the Council of Foundation at its December 2005 meeting and the formal approval by the Swiss supervisory authority, the new statutes of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) entered into force on 13 March 2006. <http://www.gichd.ch/933.0.html>

The Council of Foundation is the governing body of the GICHD. It defines the general orientation of the Centre, supervises its activities, and decides on the allocation of the resources made available to the Centre. Under the chairmanship of Dr. Cornelio Sommaruga, the Council of Foundation unites 21 members nominated by States contributing significantly to and/or participating in the Centre's activities. <http://www.gichd.ch/98.0.html>

The new Council of Foundation will remain a small and efficient body guiding the work of the Centre. Its composition will reflect in future more satisfactorily both mine affected countries as well as donor countries. The changes in the composition of the Council will not be effective immediately, but will be phased in over the next years, in line with the successive expiration of present mandates.

The newly appointed Advisory Board follows the same philosophy and is composed of qualified experts from mine affected countries, UN agencies, international NGOs and the private sector. It will follow closely the operational work of the Centre and give advice to the Director of the GICHD and its Council of Foundation on its operational work. This allows the Centre to draw from the broad field experience of this group of experts and to make its work more relevant. <http://www.gichd.ch/1147.0.html>

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