



## PRESS RELEASE | GENEVA, 4 JUNE 2007

### PRESIDENT OF CHILE MEETS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GICHD

On Monday 4 June 2007, the President of the Republic of Chile, Michelle Bachelet, received the President and the Director of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD). At that occasion, the President of the Republic of Chile and the President of the Council of Foundation of the GICHD Dr. Cornelio Sommaruga, agreed on establishing a Regional Support Centre (RSC) in Santiago de Chile (see Joint Declaration in the annex).

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, a software developed by the GICHD, installed free of charge in mine affected countries, including Latin America, which is aimed at giving a planning and operational support tool for mine action related work.

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, recognise the critical moment in the implementation process of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, and strongly underline the need to reinvigorate the spirit of partnership and cooperation among all States Parties, international organisations and the civil society.

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