



## Press Release

Geneva, 30 May 2008

### **New Director appointed at the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining**

The Council of Foundation of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) has today appointed Ambassador Stephan Husy as the Centre's new Director. His term of office takes effect from June 16, 2008.

Ambassador Husy worked for twenty years for the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. Prior to joining the GICHD, he was Commissioner, and then Secretary General, of the 30<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

At the same meeting the Council noted, with regret, the present Director's resignation. Ambassador Stephan Nellen will return to a position in the Swiss diplomatic service. The Council of Foundation thanked Ambassador Nellen for his considerable commitment, for his professionalism and for what he accomplished as the GICHD'S leader.

The appointment of the new Director coincides with the tenth anniversary of the GICHD. This unique centre of expertise works for the elimination of anti-personnel mines and for the reduction of the humanitarian impact of other landmines and explosive remnants of war. Working to increase the performance and professionalism of mine action, the GICHD provides operational assistance to its partners in the field, undertakes research, develops international standards for mine action and supports relevant instruments of international law. This includes hosting the Implementation Support Unit of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention.

For further information, please contact:

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