



STRATEGY PAPER 2000 - 2002

1. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) is an international foundation in accordance with Swiss law. It aims to be an independent and impartial centre of excellence within the international network of Mine Action activities.

2. THE MISSION OF THE GICHD

- To assist the United Nations by providing services for their Mine Action related activities, bearing in mind its special relationship with UNMAS as the focal point for Mine Action within the UN system.
- To contribute to the formulation and development of coherent strategies and procedures in Mine Action world-wide.
- To provide specific operational support and assistance for ongoing Mine Action activities.
- To support the implementation of the “Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer on Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction” (Mine Ban Convention, MBC) in co-operation with the States Parties to the MBC.
- To support the implementation and further development of the humanitarian mine action elements of the “Amended Protocol II to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects” (CCW) in co-operation with States Parties to the Convention and the Protocol.

3. STRATEGY

To achieve its mission, the GICHD shall

- assemble a nucleus of highly qualified international staff with field experience and experts hired on a contract basis, as appropriate;
- co-operate and co-ordinate with relevant organisations;
- provide a variety of platforms for discussion and information exchange among relevant key actors in Mine Action;
- avoid any duplication or competition with existing activities in the field of Mine Action.

4. CORE ACTIVITIES

4.1. Mine Action Strategies and Procedures

To achieve its mission with regard to Mine Action strategies and procedures, the GICHD shall

- use its expertise to elaborate accurate and detailed studies. These studies will provide guidance and support to Mine Action programmes in the field;
- transform the results of such studies into detailed recommendations for dissemination to the field and integration in training courses;
- participate in evaluating Mine Action programmes in an impartial and neutral manner.

4.2. Operational Support and Assistance

To provide specific operational support and assistance to ongoing Mine Action activities, the GICHD shall

- continue to develop and disseminate the IMSMA system in co-operation with UNMAS and other users;
- organise training courses on the IMSMA system;
- provide - upon request - short-term operational and technical assistance for newly established UN Mine Action programmes by deploying members of its international staff;
- prepare training packages which correspond to the needs of Mine Action programmes in the field, and which include the findings resulting from the above mentioned studies;
- host the UNMAS Geneva Conference, which assembles Mine Action practitioners at field as well as at Headquarter level and provide for a comprehensive exchange of information and experience.

4.3. Mine Ban Convention

With regard to its mission to support the MBC, the GICHD shall

- provide an administrative secretariat;
- host the meetings of the Intersessional Work Programme of the MBC undertaken by the Standing Committees of Experts;
- provide - if requested - technical advice to the consultative processes within the framework of the MBC.

4.4. Amended Protocol II of the CCW

The GICHD may, as an independent and impartial institution - upon request by the States Parties -, provide technical advice and assistance, in humanitarian mine action related questions, to the Annual Conference to the CCW as well as to any possible intersessional consultation.

5. GOVERNANCE, ORGANISATION AND FINANCES

The GICHD is primarily supported by the Governments whose representatives form the Council of Foundation.

The Council of Foundation is the decision making body of the GICHD and will determine the strategic perspectives and direction of the Centre's work. In accordance with the Statutes, the Council will elect the members of the Bureau.

The Bureau prepares the Council's meetings and supports the Centre in preparing policy and strategic proposals for submission to the Council.

The Advisory Board unites experienced advisors within the Mine Action community on whom the GICHD will call for assistance and guidance in its work, fostering an informal dialogue on Mine Action strategies