



Draft as of 29 June 2005

Informal Dialogue on Mainstreaming Mine Action into Development - Executive Summary of Minutes

Monday, 13 June 2005 - GICHD, Switzerland

INTRODUCTION

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) invited participants from development agencies to an informal dialogue on mainstreaming mine action into development. The event was co-sponsored and hosted by the GICHD – cf. agenda.

About 27 participants from capitals (Australia, Canada, Finland France, Norway, UK, USA and Switzerland), from international organisations (European Commission, UNMAS, UNDP and UNICEF), from diplomatic missions in Geneva (Australia, Austria, Japan) and from non-governmental organisations (NGOs) - MAG, Mine Action Canada and the Survey Action Centre - attended the meeting, cf. participants' list.

The purpose of the meeting was to launch a first informal dialogue with key countries on the issue to mainstream mine action into development based on the Nairobi Action Plan.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

- *Participants showed genuine interest in discussing the various facets of linking mine action to development.*

Discussions reflected a strong concern of participants to mainstreaming mine action into development. Some stressed that both mine action and development could benefit from closer cooperation at the national (donor and recipient country) and at international level. Others also stressed their willingness to offer a long term support for mine action through development funds.

- *Significant concerns in taking on the word 'mainstreaming'*

Participants would prefer to use the word 'integration' or 'linkage', instead of 'mainstreaming'. For many participants the concept of 'mainstreaming' is overburdened from past discussion on the international arena.

- *Mine action is 'linked' and 'integrated' in humanitarian assistance, peace building and development*

During discussion participants agreed that the mine action community shall take into account all possible linkages between mine action and humanitarian assistance, peace-building and development. Moreover, the transition from one phase to the other is of utmost importance. Participants agreed that mine action should be complimentary to development efforts, and not enter competition.

- *Mine action and development: a distinct development area or a component of development?*

Participants agreed that mine action could potentially compete with other areas of concerns, such as environment, human health, etc. In the end, mine action could only gain in being more closely linked to development. It remains to be discussed if mine action should unfold as a development sector in itself, or be integrated into the various aspects of development.

- *Good donorship and effective use of financial resources*

Participants discussed on how donors should best use financial resources with one single or multiple mine action budget lines. Donor countries' practices in relation to funding schemes were briefly introduced with reference to the funding source (ministry of foreign affairs, of defence, or development agency). The GICHD introduced the matrix with reference to the funding source and the purpose of the programmes (humanitarian, reconstruction, peace-building, development, treaty obligations). Participants were invited to fill in and send back the matrix to the GICHD.

PRESENTATION BY UNDP AND GICHD

Over lunch, UNDP introduced its work in relation to the linkage between mine action and development. UNDP is strongly in favour of seeing mine action as a humanitarian as well as development issue, what was supported by all participants.

The presentation of the GICHD described the Centre's activities. In particular, sectors like training and evaluation activities which are of importance to the discussion on mine action and development.

SUGGESTED WAY AHEAD

During discussion four groups of actors were identified in which further actions could be undertaken. Integrating mine action with mine affected countries could be achieved through national development plans, country ownership, priorities and national capacity building. Also civil societies and NGOs activities could be more integrated at the international as well as national level by inviting development NGOS to meetings of the mine action community. Another area of work could be with donor countries by improving the lack of information and expertise in handling mine action issues, in offering advanced organizational structures and in addressing development goals. Finally the international organisations and UN agencies could offer assistance in taking donor relationships into account as well as earmarking of funds.

CONCLUSION

In the coming months the mine action community should progressively reach out to development actors to spread the issue of integrating mine action into development. In addition, the need of arguments and evidence in order to convince development actors is hardly needed. Looking into the experience of Mozambique and Angola could allow to draw some lessons learned and best practices. Another action could be to increasingly ask for the incorporation of mine action into national development plans. Moreover, mine affected countries should be included into discussion from the outset.

INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES
13-17 JUNE

**INFORMAL DIALOGUE ON MAINSTREAMING MINE ACTION IN DEVELOPMENT 13
JUNE, 2005**

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION HEADQUARTERS AT 7BIS AVENUE DE
LA PAIX, GENEVA, ROOM C1

AGENDA

11h00 Greeting of participants by the co-chairs, Ambassador Stephan Nellen, Director of GICHD and Dr. Catherine Bragg, Director General Humanitarian Assistance, Peace and Security, CIDA

11h20 Roundtable discussion on donor reaction to and experience in integrating mine action into development programming

13h00 Participants from Development agencies are invited to a lunch in Lake Room. (Due to space constraints, by invitation only)

14h00 Presentations during lunch by UNDP, GICHD on mine action

Afternoon Session: Exploring Possible New Avenues for Mainstreaming

15h00 Exchange of ideas on how best to link mine action in the context of the Nairobi Plan of Action 2005-2009 and the regular development activities supported by international development agencies*

16h30 Summary and the way forward: Ambassador Nellen

16h50 Conclusions

* A paper which might serve as a basis for discussion will be distributed with this agenda