

## Outputs of the June 2007 Land Release/Risk Management workshop

The Land Release/Risk Management workshop was held in Geneva on 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> June 2007.

Broad discussions were held with the participants contributing significantly in their experience and suggestions. Detailed minutes of the meeting will follow shortly, but the following is believed to represent the agreed outputs from the workshop:

- **Title of GICHD work.** There was general concern over the terminology “risk management” that has been used to describe concepts that are designed to improve efficiency of land release mechanisms. GICHD will re-think the terminology in place and will shift its focus from “risk management” to “land release”
- **IMAS review.** It was noted that there are several areas of IMAS that are less than clear about land release issues. To that end, GICHD agreed to discuss this matter with UNMAS, and to focus resources on reviewing IMAS 08.10 (General Mine Action Assessment) and 08.20 (Technical Survey) and any other IMAS that link closely to the relevant parts.
- **Best Practice case studies.** During the workshop, several examples of effective methodologies/criteria for cancellation and area land release in place were demonstrated – most notably by Miljenko from Croatia. There was a consensus that a “best practice” guidebook noting the methodologies in place and the key common threads that linked those effective policies would be useful. GICHD agreed to put together a compact publication cataloguing these issues.
- **Stakeholder Analysis.** There were suggestions that, given the breadth of the industry and the diverse opinions and needs of the community, it was important to undertake a full stakeholder analysis on the industry. GICHD agreed to look into this.
- **Terminology.** Many users are using different terminology for the same situations. “Low risk”, “land without obvious evidence of threat”, “land that may be used at your own peril” were examples cited. GICHD agreed to review the current terminology and attempt to recommend some common terms.
- **Model development.** Some work has already been undertaken with NPA to develop a model for road opening in Sudan. For a number of reasons, this work bogged down and was not completed, but indications in the meeting were that there was a need to continue development of a model and to consider expansion and broader outreach. GICHD agreed to continue this work.

- **Policy.** There was some discussion following the UN National Directors meeting held recently in Geneva. UNMAS confirmed that it planned to develop a policy on land release/risk management and GICHD confirmed its willingness to support UNMAS with this process.
- **LIS review.** It was felt that there maybe lessons to be learned from the successful, or not, application of the results from extant LIS. For example, why was Yemen such a success when compared to other countries? GICHD may consider a review of LIS implementation.