

Discussion

- One participant addressed the situation in Afghanistan, where people, for example children, may pick up mines because they are desperately looking for scrap metal. Some also consider it an act of bravado to enter mined areas. Dr. Andersson agreed that this was a problem and should be addressed, perhaps in part through an education program.
- A delegate asked if research exists on how mine victims, particularly women, reclaim their lives. If no such research has been conducted, she said, the Council of Canadians with Disabilities would be very interested in becoming involved. Dr. Andersson replied that there are some good and not-so-good rehabilitation programs. One successful example involved retraining victims to become deminers. He agreed on the need for research, indicating his interest in discussing this gap with the Council of Canadians with Disabilities.
- A delegate asked if the political will exists to clear landmines, which are mostly in the Third World. General Gard responded that it is economic will, rather than political will, that is needed.
- The question of "home-made" mines and their regulation, as well as the verification process, was raised. The panel agreed this process was weak, but stated that no verification regime could ever ensure that no new mines are produced. The only hope of ridding the world of all landmines is to develop a consensus that they are unacceptable.

