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Years, Not Decades: Agenda For Mine Action II

Mine Action Coordination Workshop

**Ottawa, Canada
March 23-24, 1998**

**Chair's
Summary**

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Dear Friends:

A few short months after the signature of the antipersonnel (AP) mine ban convention by 122 states, we are assembled once more in Ottawa to move the Mine Action Agenda forward. It is a privilege for Canada to play a role in the international coordination of Mine action efforts, of which this Workshop is a part. It is our belief that the optimal use of global Mine Action resources can be realized only through continuing, methodical cooperation and joint efforts.

The purpose of this Workshop has been to bring together senior officials of key partner countries to address three main issues:

- determining where greater international coordination could improve the effectiveness of global Mine Action and related efforts to ensure the implementation of the AP Mine Ban Convention in all of its aspects, including humanitarian mine clearance and victim assistance;
- identifying gaps and areas of duplication in the expanding international response to the mines crisis; and
- developing a broad framework to facilitate the ongoing prioritization and coordination of Mine Action activities.

Even before the Workshop, it was apparent that there was much work ahead on resource and implementation issues. We need to clarify the roles and bolster the capacities of those United Nations agencies which will have broad Mine Action responsibilities. Efficiency also demands coordination of the internal and external activities of donor countries, to increase our collective impact and eliminate waste or overlap.

Concerted efforts on global landmine data management are also essential. Distinguishing the responsibilities and areas of interest of different agencies and donors on mine data collection will permit the integration of databases and refinement of information, and will facilitate priority-setting. At the same time, the worldwide movement that brought us a ban convention must standardize and evaluate the quality of data



collection. The effectiveness and appropriateness of detection and surveying techniques must be examined, even as we develop codes of conduct and identify best practices.

Enclosed in this chair's summary are a series of tools designed to assist our efforts: a calendar of key treaty deadlines, an updated calendar for Mine Action and a synopsis of the proceedings of each of the four working groups. These synopses identify the challenges for Mine Action and areas requiring further coordination, and include agendas for action in each area. This is not a negotiated document, but a recapitulation of the main points we have identified from the discussions of the past two days.

I speak for all Canadians when I say that I applaud your efforts, welcome your commitment, and look forward enthusiastically to completing this journey with you.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Axworthy
Minister of Foreign Affairs

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Discussion during the workshop revealed a new atmosphere of optimism about the determination of the international community to achieve the goal of "zero victims" and clear landmines in "years, not decades".

The elements for achieving these goals are in place. The AP Mine Ban Convention establishes: i) a clear international norm banning the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of AP mines; and ii) a comprehensive framework with legally-binding time frames and commitments to clear mines, assist victims, destroy stockpiles, cooperate internationally and ensure implementation and compliance.

Early entry into force of the Convention and concerted efforts to universalize adherence will catalyze efforts to overcome the AP mine problem. Meeting these challenges within the next decade will require united, coherent action to focus the available resources, political will and practical skills.

Important first steps are being taken:

- The international NGO community, the driving force behind the campaign to ban landmines and the principal deliverer of programs in the field, continues to enhance its capacity to be an effective partner in mine action.
- The UN, through UNMAS, has restructured itself to become a global focal point for mine action.
- Mine action partners have committed themselves to integrated responses across the issues (from treaty implementation to clearance to victim assistance) and across the communities (regional organizations, NGOs, donors, the ICRC, mine affected states, the World Bank, others).
- We understand that the building of capacity within mine affected states is key to the long term effectiveness and sustainability of mine action efforts.
- Benchmarks and performance indicators will be helpful in assessing progress toward full implementation of the Convention. To maintain political momentum and foster greater mine action coordination, the First Meeting of States Parties should occur shortly after entry into force.
- We recognize that common standards are necessary to maximize effectiveness, interoperability and accountability.
- We have affirmed that technology which is affordable, accessible and appropriate can enhance mine action efforts.

CALENDAR OF MINE ACTION EVENTS**1998****March**

- United States of America will host a Humanitarian Demining Technology Workshop in Washington, March 25-26, 1998.
- Hungary, the ICRC and the ICBL will host a Baltic-to-the-Balkans regional conference on the AP mine issue, Budapest, March 26-27, 1998.
- Indian Campaign to Ban Landmines to sponsor second national conference on a ban on landmines, Nagpur, India, March 28-29.
- NGO seminar to introduce the landmine problem and the Ottawa treaty, Baidoa, Somalia, March 31, 1998.

April

- UNICEF, the OAU and the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations will host a meeting at the UN on April 9, 1998 for African Member States, to encourage early ratification of the Convention.
- Switzerland: Official opening of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, April 28, 1998.
- Argentina to host Demining and Explosive Disposal Course at Argentine Joint Peacekeeping Training Centre, Buenos Aires.
- Slovenia to host planning conference of the International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victim Assistance in Bosnia-Herzegovina.
- Open Society Institute to host landmines forum for US private foundations, Washington, April 27, 1998.

May

- "Survey Contact Group" meeting, hosted by HI Belgium, to develop standards for quality for both new and completed level 1 surveys, to include technical standards, quality control, and certification process; establishment of certification board to ensure quality; including NGOs (VVAF, MAG, NPA, HI, MCPA, medico international), interested donor countries, UN agencies, and international organizations; Brussels, 7-11 May, 1998.

- International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) in cooperation with the International Campaign to Ban Landmines will host a Diplomatic and NGO Conference on the AP mine issue in Moscow, Russia on May 27-29, 1998.
- USA to host an international conference in Washington (May 20-22) for key donor governments, international organizations and regional organizations representing mine-affected countries, to define the elements of an international coordinating mechanism for global humanitarian demining, landmine survivor assistance, and research and development of demining technology. (Demining 2010 Initiative).
- South African Campaign to Ban Landmines to host mine clearance workshop, Johannesburg, May 25-29, 1998.
- Meeting in Oslo to develop the ICBL civil society-based monitoring system. Preliminary plans call for the establishment of an international reporting network and database, and the production of an annual report, May 31-June 1, 1998.
- EU to sponsor brainstorming session on the use of information technology in mine action, Ispra, Italy.

June

- UIDH/ICBL to sponsor NGO conference parallel to the OAU summit, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, June 1-8, 1998.
- Landmines Survivors Network to organize a regional "Landmines, Injuries and Rehabilitation" conference, Amman, Jordan, June 22-23, 1998.

Summer 1998

- Thai Campaign to Ban Landmines to host regional workshop on implementation, focusing on ASEAN countries.

July

- International experts conference on demining and detection technology for humanitarian mine clearance, Karlsruhe, Germany, July 1-2, 1998.
- Austria and Italy will host a European Seminar on the implementation of treaty obligations with regard to AP mines in the armed forces, Vienna, July 6-10, 1998.

August

- South African Campaign to Ban Landmines to sponsor NGO meeting parallel to the summit of the Non-Aligned Movement.

September

- Meeting in Dublin to develop the ICBL civil society-based monitoring system, September 14-18, 1998.
- EC to convene an International Symposium and Exhibition on demining technology at the JRC in Ispra, Italy, September 29, 1998.

October

- Cambodia to host a workshop for experts from mine affected states to share information, including "best practices" in the field.

Autumn 1998

- Switzerland to host a two-day International Expert Conference on Demining Policy Planning and Implementation.
- ICBL: 5th International ICBL Conference (tentative).
- ICRC will invite NGOs, national medical authorities and agencies involved in mine victim assistance to a workshop in the autumn of 1998 to develop guidelines for pre-hospital care for war victims, including mine victims. The objective is to reduce the lethality rate of mine incidents.
- UNICEF plans to organize an international meeting for endorsement of its Mine Awareness Guidelines, which will be finalized by the autumn of 1998.
- OAU Continental Seminar for Ministers responsible for disability issues, to facilitate measures addressing the specific needs of mine victims, Addis Ababa.

Dates in 1998 to be Determined

- ICRC will host seminars for military and political officials in Central and East Asia.

1999

Dates in 1999 to be Determined

- UNICEF plans to organize a training of trainers workshop with UN and NGO partners in the spring of 1999 on its Mine Awareness Guidelines, for which a training module will have been completed by December 1998.
- UNICEF expects to organize a workshop for its staff and partners after completion of the training module on Victim/Survivor Assistance Guidelines. These Guidelines will have been developed in cooperation with WHO and ICRC by December, 1998.
- Switzerland to host possible follow-up to the 1998 International Expert Conference on Demining Policy Planning and Implementation.

Resources and Implementation Working Group

Information

With sustained funding and well coordinated implementation activities which maximize cooperation between donors, mine affected states and international and non-governmental organizations, the humanitarian crisis created by anti-personnel landmines can be largely resolved in a matter of years, not decades. The key now is to shift from general discussion of the issues to in-country action.

The AP Mine Ban Convention provides an international framework for action to resolve the AP mine crisis, including exchanges of mine action data, destruction of stockpiles, clearance of mined areas, and the provision assistance to mine victims. Since the December Treaty Signing and Mine Action Forum in Ottawa, various initiatives have been undertaken by governments, UN agencies, regional organizations, the ICRC and the ICBL to encourage the early ratification and universalization of the AP mine ban convention.

In February 1998, the ICBL expanded its Coordination Committee from 10 to 16 members in order to reflect its continued growth and diversity. New members include the Association to Aid Refugees - Japan, the Colombian Campaign Against Landmines, Inter-African Union for Human Rights, Landmine Survivors Network, Lutheran World Federation, and Norwegian People's Aid.

The ICBL also established permanent Working Groups on Victim Assistance, Humanitarian Demining, and Treaty-related Matters, as well as ad hoc working groups on Legal and Moral Obligations, in order to facilitate coordination and enhance its effectiveness in these areas.

According to data collected by Canada, UNICEF, the ICRC and the ICBL, it is likely that 40 states will ratify the AP Mine Ban Convention by the fall, resulting in entry-into-force early next year.

The UN has restructured itself with a view to supporting the enhanced coordination of global mine action. Within the UN system, UNMAS has been designated as the focal point for all UN mine-related

activities. UNMAS has established an Inter-Agency Steering Committee on Mine Action, and a senior management Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action to enhance cooperation between UN agencies involved in mine action, inter alia, OCHA, UNICEF, UNDP, UNOPS, UNHCR, WFP, WHO, DDA and the World Bank. Representatives from the ICRC and NGOs will be included in this process.

At the working level, and in consultation with other partners, UNMAS has taken steps to set priorities for assessment missions, facilitate a coherent and constructive dialogue with the donor and international community on the mine issue, and coordinate the mobilization of resources.

Challenges

- Bolster the capacity of the United Nations to act as a clearing house for international mine action recognising that UNMAS has advised that it is lacking necessary financial and personnel resources.
- Support the capacity of regional organizations for mine action.
- Ensure the early ratification, universalization and full implementation of the AP Mine Ban Convention in all of its aspects.
- Ensure that financial and human resources are made available on a sustainable basis for all national and international organizations active in mine action to ensure the obligations in Articles 6 and 7 of the treaty are met.
- Maximize cooperation among donors, mine affected states and international and non-governmental organizations.
- Enhance coordinated mine action at the national level to strengthen sustainable national capacity and fully integrate mine action into the mine-affected countries' overall development and humanitarian assistance priorities and planning.

- Overcome non-financial obstacles to mine action, such as lack of physical access to mined areas or to landmine victims because of distance, instability or threats. Address security threats to humanitarian agencies, political and administrative constraints, and lack of trained staff.
- Build the capacity of the ICBL and its members in their ongoing role in facilitating cooperation and information exchange on NGO fund-raising initiatives for mine action and their lead role in fostering and facilitating NGO-government partnerships in program development and delivery, as well as in contributing to the effective implementation of the treaty.
- Mine action should not be held hostage to procurement and recruitment delays, or cumbersome UN rules or regulations. Mine Action Centres need maximum authority delegated to the field, particularly in the planning and implementation phases.
- Monitoring implementation of mine action efforts and the treaty (drawing on Articles 5, 6, 7 and 8) will be key.

Next Steps

- Interpret and implement the treaty in the strictest way, with the highest standards possible.
- Needs assessment is a crucial first step to establish international priorities. Population movements of refugees and internally displaced are increasing dramatically and add urgency and complexity to needs assessment, and must be taken into account in program development.
- For the UN to fulfil its key international role, information on individual mine-action programs should be, as a matter of course, channelled to UNMAS, not only by states but also by regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, from non-UN programmes and others such as the World Bank. This information should contribute to the development of an expanded UNMAS Portfolio of Mine Action Projects, which should be updated through regular contribution of information from various actors. The UN will also be an important conduit for helping to build partnerships among a range of actors. The absorptive capacity of the UN needs to be bolstered.
- On regional organizations, it will be important to bolster their capacity to work with local NGOs and mine-affected states, not only for ratification of the treaty but also for victim assistance and mine clearance efforts and socio-economic recuperation of demined lands. It will be important to ensure adequate interface with the United Nations, for instance data collected by regional organizations should be fed into UN data banks. The OAU and the OAS are establishing complete and integrated regional registries of AP mines. Regional organizations also have to cooperate among themselves to share best practices and lessons learned. Building indigenous human resources and institutional capacity is key, and local NGOs and the regional organizations are well placed to achieve this.
- The international community should build the capacity of NGOs and national campaigns in order to position them to be effective advocates for ratification, early entry into force and universalization. Building indigenous capacity will also lay the groundwork for facilitating implementation of the convention.
- It will also be important to ensure that the first meeting of States Parties occurs at the earliest possible opportunity following entry-into-force of the Convention.
- The question of international assistance being conditional on signature or ratification of the treaty was raised as a possibility for inducing states to adhere and as a way of ensuring definitive and effective mine action. The example of the World Bank's "covenants" where states receiving resources from the Bank agree not to lay mines was cited as one approach.
- Widespread use of the ICRC's "Ratification Kits", now available in seven languages, should be encouraged. Canada, the ICRC, UNICEF, the ICBL and UNDDA will continue to exchange information on

the progress of state ratification of the Convention. The UN, as depositary of the Convention, has indicated that it can play a role in universalizing adherence to and promoting early ratification of the treaty.

- To ensure effective use of new and existing resources, it is essential to further strengthen partnerships with mine affected countries and local communities. To this end, local needs and mechanisms to involve mine affected countries must be integrated into global mine action coordination efforts. Building a sense of ownership by mine-affected countries of national mine action programmes is key. There should also be more opportunities for "South-South" cooperation among mine-affected countries to exchange best practices.
- A concerted effort will be made to ensure the sustainability of resources for international mine action, in part by utilizing the mechanisms detailed in this section. To assist the international community in determining how to best utilize its resources, UNMAS will prepare annually a comprehensive "portfolio of funding opportunities," outlining the resources required for all mine action projects. UNMAS will also prepare an annual financial statement on UN mine action. UNMAS and all other UN bodies involved need adequate resources to effectively carry out their roles on mine action, including UNMAS' role as the focal point for all UN mine-related activities. Regional arrangements may also be used to raise resources, but coordination with UN and other funding mechanisms will be important.
- The private sector is an important source of funds and public/private partnerships need to be enhanced to ensure financial sustainability for mine action. Coordination with UN, regional organizations and other funding mechanisms will be key.
- Existing UN arrangements, such as the Consolidated Appeal process and the Central Emergency Revolving Fund, should be used as a flexible funding response mechanism for mine action and could support the Voluntary Trust Fund. Funding from various parts of the UN system needs to be coordinated and integrated with UNMAS funding mechanisms. Annual pledging conferences were cited as one option. However, such conferences should be accompanied by comprehensive information on existing resources, programmes and progress on implementing the Convention, perhaps through an expanded UNMAS Portfolio of Mine Action Projects.
- To ensure coordination and cooperation between donors, mine affected states and international and non-governmental organizations and to provide guidance and direction to the UN to promote results-based management of mine action, efforts should be undertaken to maximize consultations and exchanges of information between multilateral, regional and national organizations and agencies involved in mine action.
- One possibility is the establishment of in-country "Circle of Friends" to coordinate assistance for mine action, with a lead "friend" or donor designated. Another option would be the establishment of mine action Consultative Groups to coordinate donor activity, similar to World Bank Sectoral Consultative Groups. There will also be a need for focused donor coordination to mobilize resources and to establish priorities, particularly for action at the country level. Norway's initiative to convene a Mine Action Support Group in New York to liaise with UNMAS and other UN bodies was also cited.
- UNMAS should ensure that partners outside the UN system, including non-governmental organizations, local actors, the ICRC and national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies are included in its consultative process. In particular, the importance of including NGOs, the ICRC, the World Bank and other appropriate players was stressed. In this respect the Inter-Agency Steering Committee on Mine Action should be encouraged to involve representatives of NGOs and IOs in its work.
- To enhance coordination of mine action, strengthen sustainable national capacity and fully integrate mine action into the mine-affected countries' overall development and humanitarian assistance priorities and planning the following steps were raised:

Coordination at the national level for donor countries - among foreign affairs, development, military and finance portfolios - will be key. The importance of integrating mine action into World Bank and donor country programmes for environmental protection, development, agricultural rehabilitation and post-conflict peacebuilding was cited. Existing UN mechanisms for humanitarian assistance and development are also an important avenue for coordination of mine action: for instance the UN Resident Coordinators.

- Links between field operations and headquarters policy-making are key. Efforts are needed to increase the capacity for independent management by the Mine Action Centres.
- All actors in the development and humanitarian assistance process - NGOs, local groups, mine-affected states - need to be involved in mine action in order to achieve a comprehensive approach. Participation of local actors in UN in-country coordination is key.
- Integrated mine action also requires taking a holistic approach - ensuring that action to implement the mine ban treaty takes place in the context of wider and long-term humanitarian, development and post-conflict reconstruction programming. Existing international work on the "humanitarian-to-development continuum" will serve as a useful analytical tool but needs to include mine action priorities.
- The World Bank advised that NGOs and governments should ensure that "Country Assistance Strategies" incorporate mine action into development plans. The Post-Conflict Reconstruction grant mechanism could also be looked to for mine action.
- The UNDP also referred to the reforms they brought to their programming in using Track III resources, which could facilitate rapid mine action. The UNDP has proposed establishment of an international training facility to address the need for management and supervisory training required for capacity-building in mine affected countries. In consultation with a number of donors, the UNDP has decided to undertake a pre-feasibility study and will report back to donors.
- There was recognition that there currently exists no international focal point for victim assistance. Caution was raised that assistance for mine victims should not result in singling out mine victims but should be part of larger public health/war victim efforts. Given the range of UN and other actors involved in victim assistance - the ICRC, the WHO, UNICEF and others - there may be a need for an international "stock-taking" exercise in the near future. The Swiss indicated their willingness to support such a meeting.
- It important to move the funding into the field as expeditiously as possible, e.g by providing funding directly to the delivery agency rather than channeling it through UN Trust Funds. Pledges should be honoured as soon as possible; unearmarked funds allow UN agencies to respond quickly to immediate priorities. Recognizing that the majority of in-field mine action continues to be done by NGOs, Donors should take into account HI/MAC/NPA principles for mine action. Donor rules and regulations need to be re-examined and streamlined to be more user-friendly to NGOs and to let money move into the field as quickly as possible.
- The ICBL and its members will continue to facilitate cooperation and information exchange on NGO fund-raising initiatives for mine action, and to foster and facilitate NGO-government partnerships in programme development and delivery.
- On monitoring, it will be important to monitor not only States Parties' national implementation but also to monitor the effectiveness of assistance for mine action including whether priority needs (in particular treaty implementation obligations) are being met. To determine this, the international community has to devise means of measuring programme impact and accountability. The timelines provided by the treaty are key. Timelines set by regional organizations are also key - eg. the OAS goal of a landmine-free Central America by 2000. However, it will be important to take into account the burden these deadlines place on the UN, regional organization and mine-affected states and ensure they have the resources necessary to meet the treaty and regional deadlines.

Events

- Hungary, the ICRC, and the ICBL will host a Baltic-to-the-Balkans regional conference on the AP mine issue, Budapest, 26-27 March, 1998.
- Switzerland will officially open the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining on April 28, 1998.
- USA to host an international conference in Washington (May 20-22) for key donor governments, international organizations and regional organizations representing mine-affected countries, to define the elements of an international coordinating mechanism for global humanitarian demining, landmine survivor assistance, and research and development of demining technology. (Demining 2010 Initiative).
- Austria (and Italy) will host a European seminar on the implementation of treaty obligations with regard to AP mines in the armed forces in Vienna on July 7-10, 1998.

Data Working Group

Information

Article 7 of the AP mine ban Convention (Transparency Measures) obliges all signatory states to provide reports regarding, inter alia, AP mine stockpiles, mined areas, plans for the destruction of stockpiles and the provision of mine awareness programs, not later than 180 days after entry-into-force of the AP mine ban Convention.

UN Department for Disarmament Affairs has developed and circulated a draft reporting format for obligations related to Article 7 of the AP mine ban Convention.

The government of Switzerland has offered to develop a module for data required under Article 7 of the AP mine ban Convention as a component of the UN electronic information management system.

Members of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines will work together in a coordinated effort to establish a civil society-based system aimed at monitoring implementation of and compliance with the AP Mine Ban Convention and other aspects of the global landmines crisis.

Within the United Nations system, UNMAS will act as the focal point for the collection, analysis and dissemination of AP mine data. As a first step towards the coordination of global mine action efforts, UNMAS has prepared a listing of priority assessment missions which it will undertake as soon as possible.

The planning, development and maintenance of an electronic information management system for the United Nations will be undertaken in cooperation with the Swiss government as a component of its Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining. The system envisages collecting data for purposes of analyzing the global AP mine problem. An initial operational capability for this system is anticipated on 1 January, 1999.

UNMAS will also act as an open repository for AP mine data from other organizations active in mine action, including international and non-governmental organizations. UNMAS circulated its "Guideline Paper on Information Management and Database", dated March 1998, at the meeting.

The ICRC and UNICEF each have established or will establish initiatives to collect AP mine data at the national level on victim assistance and mine awareness, respectively. The World Health Organization (WHO) has formulated a Plan of Action for a Concerted Public Health Response on Anti-Personnel Mines, with the aim of strengthening the surveillance capability of national health systems to assess the severity of the AP mine problem.

The experience of the Afghan Mine Clearance Planning Agency (MCPA) provides a model for an integrated country-level data collection and reporting system which can be used to facilitate the ongoing planning and prioritization of mine action. MCPA has offered to share its experience and expertise with other agencies involved in mine action.

A number of states and organizations have developed mine action databases. A list of these databases was compiled and circulated within the data working group.

Challenges

- Full implementation of Article 7 of the AP mine ban Convention within the next 12 to 18 months. Further definition is needed of the level of detail required for the exchange of data under this article and its potential relationship to information collected in the course of conducting level 1 surveys—these two activities should be complementary.
- Timely collection, analysis and dissemination of information (results from assessment missions and level 1 and 2 surveys) on the humanitarian, socio-economic and public health dimensions of the AP mine problem—this should include data from diverse sources already available in the field.
- Determination of the number of comprehensive baseline level 1 surveys completed to UN standards.
- Reinforcement of the capacity of the United Nations to conduct assessment and survey missions.

- Coordination of mine data collection, management, and exchange between UN agencies and other organizations involved in the collection of AP mine data (to include data on the AP mine ban Convention, AP mine incidents, mine clearance, mine awareness, and victim assistance). Maximum possible transparency and development of linkages between data-bases maintained by all organizations active in mine action.
- Establishment of an international AP mine incident registry to measure progress toward both the alleviation of the AP mine crisis and the success of the AP mine ban Convention. ICRC has offered to work with other groups on this effort.
- Development of concrete performance indicators—and baselines to measure progress in mine action activities (e.g. demining: no. of square kms. cleared).
- Development of standardized AP mine data collection and reporting mechanisms and structured data exchange mechanisms at the local, national, and international levels.
- Clarification of data collection criteria; ascertainment on a case-by-case basis why data is being collected, what data is relevant, and how it will be used for planning future mine action, and whether data is accurate; recognition of data collection as a dynamic process, subject to change as data needs change; “tool box” approach to data collection.
- Proper training of data collection and survey teams. Should be as familiar as possible with local communities and conditions, and well versed in proper collection and reporting techniques; recognition of data collection as a community-based, integral component of mine action; use of AP mine victims to collect data.
- Overcoming of non-financial obstacles to proper data collection efforts (e.g. security threats to data collection persons and agencies, political/administrative constraints, etc.)

Next Steps

- Work toward the completion of assessment missions, and where applicable, level 1 surveys in priority mine-affected states within the next 12-18 months.
- Development of “Lessons Learned” manual on level 1 surveys, as well as other vehicles for sharing experience in the conduct of surveys.
- Further development of UNDDA draft reporting form for collection of data under Article 7 of the AP mine Ban Convention and distribution of this form to states parties for commentary.
- Commencement of operations of United Nations Information Management System within Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), 1 January, 1999.
- Development of UN “Starter Kit” software system and distribution to new and starting mine action centres by UNMAS, as requested; kit to possibly include GIS software.
- Development of a system of standardized reporting procedures and a structured exchange of information between states, international organizations and NGOs involved in mine action.
- Establishment of a global mine incident registry in cooperation with WHO, ICRC, UNICEF, national mine action centres and interested NGOs; clarification of the relative roles of each in this effort; this is a vital step in measuring the scale of the AP mine problem and the success of the AP mine Ban Convention; these groups should meet at the earliest opportunity and report to the international community on their progress; this group should also consider the development of a standardized reporting mechanism, and mechanisms to survey and report on the psycho-social impacts of AP mines.

Events

- "Survey Contact Group" meeting, hosted by HI Belgium, to develop standards for quality for both new and completed level 1 surveys, to include technical standards, quality control, and certification process; establishment of certification board to ensure quality; including NGOs (VVAf, MAG, NPA, HI, MCPA, medico international), interested donor countries, UN agencies, and international organizations; Brussels, 7-11 May, 1998.
- With respect to the ICBL civil society-based monitoring system, preliminary plans call for the establishment of an international reporting network and database, and the production of an annual report, with meetings to develop the system to be held in Oslo, May 31-1 June and Dublin, September 14-18, 1998.
- European Commission-sponsored forums on use of information technology in mine action, Ispra Italy, May and September, 1998.

Standards and Evaluation Working Group

Information

Definitions are always problematic; distinctions need to be made between "guidelines" and "standards". Standards are the criteria by which activities are evaluated and measured and to which one must conform. They allow limited degree of flexibility and therefore they must be very precisely defined.

The Convention provides the framework for mine action with precise guidelines and time lines to which State Parties must adhere (e.g. Article 4: destruction of stocks within 4 years; Article 5: destruction of AP mines in affected areas within 10 years; Article 5(2): identification of mined areas; Article 7 (1) (F): applicable safety and environmental standards; Article 9: national implementation measures.)

Articles 11 and 12 of the Convention provide an evaluation mechanism with the Meeting of States Parties and Review Conferences, as well as for the Special Meetings of States Parties.

Work is being undertaken in a number of areas related to standards.

Within the UN system, UNMAS is responsible for the development, maintenance and promotion of technical and safety standards. UNMAS will also ensure that regular monitoring and lessons learned missions are conducted and that the results will be widely disseminated.

In 1997, the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs drafted a document which incorporated the results of the Copenhagen and Tokyo Conferences on international standards for humanitarian mine clearance. These standards provide a framework for the Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs) for mine clearance operations. Several national governments have developed country specific SOPs;

As outlined in the UNMAS March 1998 paper, "The Application of Quality Management Systems to Mine Action", the UN is studying the relevance of quality management systems such as the ISO 9000 for quality assurance and quality control in mine clearance operations.

UNICEF (in collaboration with UNMAS) is the focal point for mine awareness and is currently in the process of developing guidelines on mine awareness education including standards setting and monitoring and evaluation programs;

As of January 98 the World Health Organization (in collaboration with UNMAS) has responsibility within the UN system for standards relating to victim assistance. WHO has developed a plan of action for assistance to mine victims.

Collaboration has been initiated between WHO and UNICEF in the area of victim assistance (particularly in the development of psycho-social rehabilitation programs). They plan to contribute the information collected to the UN database in order to develop standards.

The ICRC has produced guidelines for surgical care and rehabilitation needs of AP mine victims.

In the area of mine detection, the European Commission's Joint Research Centre is elaborating standards for mine detection sensors as well as the characterization of mines and terrains.

With regards to NGO operations, the Mines Advisory Group, in cooperation with other NGOs, has developed a set of "Basic Principles of Operation" and is developing a code of conduct for NGO operations.

Work is also underway in certain areas to create professional bodies relating to mine action.

Handicap International is exploring issues associated with liability, compensation and benefits standards.

Challenges

- Promote and ensure early entry into force of the Convention.
 - Develop standardized definitions in all areas of mine action.
 - Develop international standards with regard to, inter alia, reporting, training requirements, certification of mine clearance, and accreditation of mine clearance organizations.
 - Ensure that the standards reflect a "living" and flexible document, and that all programs are evaluated at major milestones to enable appropriate course corrections and maximize effectiveness.
 - Develop progress indicators for results-based mine action, beginning with treaty requirements (e.g. Article 6 - international cooperation and assistance), and including specific goals such as "zero victims", "Demining 2010", and ICRC standards for landmines victim access to universal care.
 - Ensure that mine action standards meet the social-economic and environmental needs of the mine affected communities.
 - Ensure that all the relevant actors engaging in mine action efforts develop and subsequently adhere to universalized standards of operation.
 - Maximize dissemination of information on mine action standards including safety standards.
 - Enhance dialogue between the UN and other relevant mine action actors to agree on standards.
 - Develop standard evaluation process that looks at the administration of contracts.
- practices within the NGO community, mine affected countries and the donor community.
- United Nations has an important role to play in collecting and disseminating this information about standards, lessons learned, evaluation tools, etc. across the full range of mine action activities.
 - The current UN documents on standards will be revised and upgraded with the broad involvement of the mine action community with a view to early publication.
 - The WHO, and the ICRC along with UNICEF, will exchange views establishing standards relating to victim assistance with the view to producing a preliminary standards document by summer 98 (with a view to discuss at the ICRC autumn 98 conference).
 - The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, in coordination with UNMAS and other interested actors, will explore the possibilities for establishing a professionally accredited body of experts in mine action. In the first instance, contact will be made with the relevant association being created in the UK.
 - The European Commission, in liaison with UNMAS and UNOPS, will develop a register of organizations engaged in mine action.
 - Various events bearing on standards are scheduled : UNICEF will take forward its work on mine awareness education guidelines at its conference in September.
 - Cambodia to host a workshop in October 98 for experts from mine affected states to share information, including "best practices" in the field.
 - ICRC will invite NGOs, national medical authorities and agencies involved in mine victim assistance to a workshop in the autumn of 1998 to develop guidelines for pre-hospital care for war victims, including mine victims. The objective is to reduce the lethality rate of mine incidents.

Next Steps

- Early entry into force of the Convention will help to set clear standards for mine action.
- Support the ongoing development of universalized mine action standards, codes of conduct and best

Technology Working Group

Information

States Parties to the Convention undertake in Article Six "to facilitate and have the right to participate in the fullest possible exchange of equipment, material and scientific and technological information concerning the implementation" of the Convention. States Parties also undertake to provide assistance for mine clearance and related activities, to provide assistance for the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines, and to provide information to the UN database on mine clearance concerning technologies.

The aim of effective coordination of mine action technology is to ensure that effective, appropriate and affordable capability is made available to mine action programmes today and in the future.

Within the United Nations system, UNMAS is the designated focal point for global collection, analysis and dissemination of information related to mine action technology.

The Joint Research Centre of the European Commission held an "End User Forum" on demining in Ispra, Italy, on 29-30 January, 1998. Among the conclusions reached were the need to use a standard GIS, and the need to concentrate R&D on improved survey capability and wide area detection.

Challenges

- Fulfilling commitments made under Article Six of the Convention on equipment and information exchange, on the provision of technological assistance for mine action, and the provision of technological information to the UN.
- The Convention gives a timeline of 10 years for destruction of AP mines. This should not preclude investment in technologies which mature in the 9th year, considering that some mine manufacturing states are not currently signatories to the Convention.
- Need for increased investment in R&D on technology to monitor and destroy stockpiles as required by the Convention.
- To meet the challenge of 'years not decades', there is a need to increase productivity of mine action, there is reason to hope that this can be achieved with the help of technology.
- Consideration of the opportunity cost of landmines in the urgency of technological development, namely lost employment or loss of productive land, or intangible cultural and social losses, in addition to the cost of maintaining refugees away from their homes.
- Creating a matrix of information on all aspects of technology (including surveying, detection, clearance, and victim assistance) indicating what is available, what it can be used for, where it can be used and what stage of development it is in. This could help eliminate redundancy in R&D programs, and make results available to the global mine action community.
- Prioritisation of needs with focus on expediting the fielding of realistic, cost effective technologies which are easy to maintain, useful, and affordable.
- Explaining in a clear manner to developers what is required by the end user - the signals passed on to industry have to be clear to lead to the right useable technology.
- Integration of local, international and NGO actors in the field into development and execution of projects, including field testing of equipment.
- Mobilising political and fiscal support for investing in short term, incremental improvements to existing technologies.
- Balancing short term goals with the need to make a radical improvement in humanitarian demining technology.
- Increasing detection capacities without incurring the usual high false alarm rates.

- Continuing support for avenues of research which are currently unappealing but which might become drastically more useful with moderate modifications, e.g. the conventional metal detector.
- Determining how to coordinate R&D between pure investment in humanitarian demining (to improve field testing or surveying) and military countermine R&D.
- Acknowledging that there may not be a market for humanitarian demining technology, considering that perhaps a market can be created by government or NGO/private sector/foundation, each of which have drawbacks.
- Accessibility of victim assistance technology which is currently very well developed but is not affordable.
- Development of a standard statement of the operational requirement (SOR) for equipment required to meet mine action objectives in the field, and the assurance that this information is widely available. Building capacity in the user community to write and submit SORs.
- Regularizing the use of technical representation at the country level, eg. technical officers routinely stationed in MACs for activities from writing SORs to responding to donor and public queries.
- Continue investment with a view to the longer term in appropriate technology R&D to radically improve mine detection and clearance methods, provided they are applicable and affordable in the field.
- Replicate where appropriate, the model proposed by CMAC of maintaining a technical officer in the field (Mine Action Centre) as a representative for the specific technical requirements in the field, and as liaison to the donor community through filling SORs and providing information to the UN.
- Promote the expansion of the worldwide communication network on email that exists for the exchange of technical information (owner-demining-list@warwick.ac.uk).

Events

- Washington 20-22 May 1998: Washington Conference on Global Humanitarian Demining.
- Karlsruhe, Germany 1-2 July, 1998: international experts conference on demining and detection technology for humanitarian mine clearance.
- Ispra, Italy 29 September - 1 October: European Commission Joint Research Centre exhibition of demining technologies.

Next Steps

- Support the UNMAS project to establish a universal system to facilitate mine action technology coordination, in cooperation with the work of the European Commission. Illustrative models to be presented at Washington (May 98), and infrastructural elements to be presented at Karlsruhe (July 98). This will involve the formation of an 'ad hoc' group to develop this system.
- Encourage transparency and wide dissemination of information on the above process.
- Concurrently, direct resources immediately to the deployment of available technologies, in cooperation with actors in the field. This will be addressed in greater detail at Karlsruhe.

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WORKSHOP ON MINE ACTION COORDINATION
OTTAWA, 23-24 MARCH, 1998

COMPILATION OF MINE ACTION DATABASES

ORGANIZATION/ COUNTRY & SOFTWARE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DATABASE
UNDP	<p>maintains databases at country level where it has ongoing programs (Cambodia, Laos, Angola, Mozambique); centralized database on capacity building aspects managed by UNDP will be established as a management instrument in UNHQ; will interface with UNMAS database</p> <p>operational & planning data; fundraising (received, pledged, used, shortfalls, projects); situational, political info</p> <p>purpose: planning, implementing, and monitoring all aspects of capacity building mine action programs</p> <p>"http://www.undp.org" can access country offices via this site also Leon Terblanche, (212) 906-5984</p>
Belgium DB (Excel?)	<p>information on AP mine types</p> <p>"briot.b@js.mil.be"</p>
Landmine Survivors Network DB Textworks	<p>tracks needs of survivors and care givers; resources available to help them (local and international organizations offering assistance in mined countries); can be used to track international funding and act as a report on spending of public money</p> <p>being developed for access on worldwide web at: "lsn@landminesurvivors.org"</p>
Mines Action Canada	<p>advocacy resources, information background, statistical, campaign contact and national position;</p> <p>http://www.minesactioncanada.com</p> <p>e-mail: cppeeli@web.net</p>
Human Rights Watch Paradox	<p>database on production and trade of AP mines</p> <p>organized by supplier country, with details on types, quantities when available, and recipients</p>
The Marshall Legacy Institute	<p>Landmine Injury - in process of compiling the currently available records from US (Vietnam), Russia/Ukraine (Afghanistan) & others and assistance to the full spectrum of health care providers involved with this issue</p>

Handicap International	collects data on: mine victims, mine survivors in several countries or provinces of countries; collection of evaluation papers on field oriented policy papers on small and medium size mine action field projects
UNHCR	database in Programme and Technical Section (Geneva) which takes stock of all UNHCR mine assessment reports, research papers, discussion papers, statements, excom papers, GA Resolutions, policy papers, training modules and other mine related activities over the past 6 years
WHO	intends to establish AP mine injury database at country level, linked to UNHQ; to collect data on mortality, morbidity, disability and response capacity surveillance by collecting data on level of health care facilities, capacity, organization, equipment, staff, etc.; also intends to establish a clearing house for information on public health aspects of AP mine use to monitor effect of Ban Convention and assess needs for support to victims and related programme planning to meet those needs
WFP	collects data on mine-related projects where food aid is involved; WFP focal point also takes stock of all mine related activities and information including assessment reports, UN policy, international conferences, etc.
UNMAS	" www.org/Depts/Landmine/ "
OCHA	maintains descriptions & budget requirements of all mine action projects included in the Inter-Agency Consolidated Appeals " www.reliefweb.int.com/ "; project matrices available for each emergency country including NGOs, bilateral, & other projects
UNDDA Lotus Notes	to develop database for collection of data required by Article 7 of Ban Convention
Mine Clearance Planning Agency, Afghanistan FoxPro	database on mine situation and impacts of mines in Afghanistan; covers all aspects of mine action; collection of data on mine victims in progress tel: +92 51 211451 fax: +92 51 211471
United States Microsoft	operates open source data system in connection with the Humanitarian Demining Information Centre at James Madison University; " www.hdic.jmu.edu/hdic/exchange/confctr " State and Defence Departments have other systems for: operations funding, analysis and reporting

Handicap International Belgium	database on Laos UXO pollution UXO Lao PO Box 345 Vientiane, Lao PDR tel: 856-21-41-48-36 fax: 856-21-41-57-66
Medico/ Miseror	e-mail: th.gebauer@t-online
Bellanet International Cold Fusion/ Access/ SQL	mandated to promote collaboration in international development community. no specific expertise in mine action, but expertise in use of information technology in improving efficiency of development programs. example of on-line database for hi-tech in Africa at "www.bellanet.org/partners/picta" e-mail: "riff@bellanet.org"
Handicap International/Cambodian Red Cross	Mine Victim Assistance Database
Project APM, UK Ministry of Defence/ DERA	
CIDEV 32 Rue de la Lisbonne, 75008, Paris	general information source
MUNTEC Australian Ministry of Defence	weapons systems, ammunition (including mines), under development
European Commission	GIS for all mine affected areas in which EC is supporting mine actions; Landmines Information System, covering target database, environmental database, and information (equipment, technology, current demining operations and practices, on-going research activities) databases; "http://www.ei.jrc.it/landmines/ e-mail: "arwyn.jones@jrc.it"
Swedish Armed Forces HQ	GIS, mine database to be completed
Mechem	mine database Southern African Theatre

Cambodian Mine Action Centre	<p>general HD information of all types "dir_cmac@forum.org.kh" "cancon@forum.org.kh" technical coordination network, by invitation only after application by active technological agencies; owner: "demining-list@warwick.ac.uk"</p>
ICRC, Geneva	<p>data on treaty signature, ratification, stockpile destruction, announcements, national legislation, case studies on selected mine-affected countries and regions (mines, victims, costs) "http://www.icrc.org"</p>
France	<p>will give all info concerning physical characteristics of large catalogue of AP mines, function to UN</p>

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AP Mine Ban Convention: Timelines



