

Third Meeting
Managua, 18-21 September 2001
Item 15 of the draft provisional agenda

**INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
AND ASSISTANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 6**

Report of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance
and Related Technologies to the Third Meeting
of States Parties to the Convention

I. Introduction

1. The Standing Committee (SC) on Mine Clearance and Related Technologies, established in accordance with the decisions and recommendations of the First Meeting of States Parties (FMSP) and the Second Meeting of States Parties (SMSP), met in Geneva from 5 to 6 December 2000 and from 8 to 9 May 2001.
2. At the SMSP it was agreed, in accordance with paragraph 28 of the Final Report, that Netherlands and Peru would serve as Co-Chairs of the SC, with Germany and Yemen serving as Co-Rapporteurs of the merged Committee on Mine Clearance and Related Technologies.
3. Representatives of about 80 States, the European Commission, the United Nations, the Organization of American States, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) and of numerous other relevant organizations were registered as participants in either or both of the two meetings.
4. The meetings of the SC received administrative support from the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD).
5. Interpretation into French and Spanish was provided during a half-day session of the second meeting.



II. Matters reviewed by the Standing Committee

6. The SC considered progress in the review and revision of the international standards for humanitarian mine clearance (IMAS), undertaken by the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) with the assistance of the GICHD. The first draft of the IMAS was finished and was circulated among interested stakeholders. It is also available on CD and on the GICHD website. A discussion took place among all participants on the importance and utility of the revised standards. The SC took note of comments by the ICBL Mine Action Working Group (MAWG) on possible implications of the IMAS, *inter alia*, additional costs involved that could impose management challenges on the UN Mine Action Centres (MACs) and other mine action programmes.

7. The Study on the Use of Socio-Economic Analysis in Planning and Evaluating Mine Action – whose progress has been followed since the first intersessional year – was released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This study was prepared by the GICHD for UNDP.

8. The SC received progress reports on the Landmine Impact Surveys (formerly known as Level 1 Surveys) recently undertaken by the Survey Action Center (SAC) – in Yemen and Chad – and on the planning for new surveys. Considerable support was expressed for these surveys, which are viewed as a positive tool for Mine Action.

9. The SC also received reports by Handicap International/ICBL-MAWG's presentation on Conducive Operating Environment for Mine Action and the German Initiative to Ban Landmines on guidelines and principles for Mine Action. A presentation was made of the project "Assistance to Mine Affected Communities" (AMAC) by the International Peace Research Institute (PRIO) of Oslo. Experiences shared by Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) NGOs showed that the involvement of the affected communities in Mine Action operations is crucial to their success.

10. The Organization of American States (OAS) presented how Mine Action is undertaken at the regional level in the Americas. The SC considered the regional approach as one that could be very positive for Mine Action activities.

11. UNMAS presented an update on their database on Mine Action Investments as well of the UN Assistance Programme comprising the Portfolio on Mine Action Projects, consolidated appeal processes (CAP), country/programme specific appeals, round table meetings, ongoing liaison and the voluntary financial contributions, including the Voluntary Trust Fund.

12. ICBL presented their Compendium Document of NGO projects.

13. The SC took note of valuable information on the coordination and prioritization process that could be obtained from tools developed both by HMA NGOs and the UN – such as those indicated in the previous paragraphs.

14. The SC received reports on the progress made in the development of the International Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) by the GICHD, including the training programmes already carried out in different countries.

15. The SC was updated on efforts made in national capacity building, like the Management Training Programme of Cranfield University.

16. The SC was briefed on some States Parties presentations on the mine problem in their countries and the activities undertaken or in the planning stages for addressing the problem (Yemen, Chad, Peru).

17. On technologies several presentations were made from different sectors – including Research and Development (R&D) – and an intensive forum-like discussion took place at the SC during its second meeting (May 2001). The need to match technologies with needs from the field was a constant issue of discussion. HMA operators emphasized the need for technologies that are appropriate, affordable, reliable, sustainable and available in the near, rather than far, future, given the ten-year time-frame for clearance of mined areas as required by the Convention. HMA operators are not against R&D, but again emphasized the urgency to clear mined areas and to support and improve existing proven methods of clearance.

III. Actions taken related to the development of specific tools and instruments to assist in implementing the Convention

18. With the assistance of the GICHD, UNMAS is about to finish the final version of the new IMAS by the summer of 2001. Regional workshops are taking place to familiarize countries with IMAS. GICHD and UNMAS received some inputs from countries (Canada and Peru).

19. Databases both from UNMAS and ICBL continue to be updated, as its utility continues to be expressed.

20. IMAS will be translated into UN languages during 2002 after their adoption by the General Assembly in 2001.

21. IMSMA is being implemented successfully in more countries. The IMSMA project contemplates the development of the field and global modules, translations into different languages (first targets: French, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian and Arabic) – beginning in the summer of 2001, along with its deployment and training.

22. The SC noted that the *Landmine Monitor* would issue its third report in time for the Third Meeting of States Parties (TMSP), and that funding had been requested to complete the report.

23. The GICHD has launched a new version of its website with extensive information on the work done by the Intersessional Work Programme and its Standing Committees.

IV. Action taken or in process to assist in the implementation of the Convention

24. The Survey Action Center (SAC) is undertaking several Landmine Impact Surveys and is planning to undertake several others in coordination with UNMAS.
25. The completion of a handbook on Socio-Economic Guidelines, based on the UNMAS study on socio-economic analysis.
26. Cranfield University held their first course for senior Mine Action managers in July-September 2000. Other courses had been held afterwards.
27. UN will prepare a five-year strategic plan for Mine Action, comprising the different pillars of Mine Action (advocacy, mine awareness, victim assistance, mine clearance and stockpile destruction).
28. The recently established Integrated Test and Evaluation Programme (ITEP) could start providing independent, scientific and unbiased assistance in the testing and evaluation on technologies.

V. Recommendations made by the Standing Committee

29. Further and wider consultation on the IMAS review process is needed to ensure their applicability.
30. The IMAS shall take into consideration inputs from the regional workshops – undertaken or planned – on this matter.
31. The new IMAS must be included in training programmes.
32. All stakeholders shall examine and evaluate the IMAS and suggest improvements.
33. In order to disseminate the IMAS it was highly recommended to translate them into different languages.
34. The SC recommended the dissemination of the Study on the Use of Socio-Economic Analysis in Planning and Evaluating Mine Action, in particular of its handbook, which should be translated into different languages.
35. To improve the involvement of mine-affected communities in the planning and implementation of Mine Action operations.
36. Stakeholders must contribute to national capacity building – including training and the managerial level – which is a prerequisite for the success of any Mine Action programme.
37. National Landmine Impact Surveys (former Level 1 Surveys) to continue, in order to have a good assessment of the problem and needs for Mine Action.

38. The IMSMA project to continue developing its modules and activities, especially the training modules.
39. To keep updating information tools (GICHD, UNMAS, ICBL, etc.) and make them available by Internet and other means.
40. The UN to coordinate with stakeholders in the preparation of the upcoming five-year strategic plan for Mine Action.
41. States Parties to present during the next intersessional year their overviews of the mine problem on their countries and the strategies, programmes, projects to address the problem.
42. Elaboration of a new approach for technologies for Mine Action, which will require closer integration between mine clearance and research and development (R&D) and R&D must preferably be driven by demand from the field (bottom-up approach).
43. Demand for simple equipment and/or adaptation of simple technology that is useable. Technologies shall take into consideration four elements: safety, productivity, cost-effectiveness and sustainability.
44. To consider in the next intersessional year proposals and ideas submitted this year by participants on how to achieve an adequate coordination for the development of technologies for Mine Action, such as the designation of a national focal point for technology issues.
45. Request the ITEP Secretariat to start the testing and evaluation of technologies for Mine Action and share their experiences.
46. To consider the development of mechanisms to ensure the effective implementation of Article 6 of the Convention (transfer of technology and assistance).
47. To prepare a more sustained and substantive agenda of the SC for the next intersessional year.

VI. Reference to supporting documents

48. Draft Revised IMAS. Information can be found on the GICHD website (www.gichd.ch). Text of the International Standards can be found on the following website: www.mineclearancestandards.org.
49. UNDP Study of Socio Economic Approaches to Mine Action (available on the UNMAS website).
50. The yearly reports of the *Landmine Monitor* can be found on the ICBL *Landmine Monitor* website: www.icbl.org/lm/.

51. The ICBL website (www.icbl.org) provides a large amount of information regarding the work of the intersessional SCs and its documents, including information sheets and intersessional updates. There is also information regarding the ICBL Mine Action Working Group, the Bad Honnef Guidelines, the Portfolio of Mine-related projects and the study on Building a Conducive Environment for Mine Action.

52. The UN Portfolio of Mine-related projects is found on the UNMAS website (www.un.org/Depts/dpko/mine/index.html).

53. The UN Mine Action Investments is on the following website : www.webapps.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/mai/frameset.asp) or available through the UNMAS website.

54. The reports and other documents relating to the two meetings of the SC in December 2000 and May 2001 may be found on the website of the GICHD.

55. Information on IMSMA may be found on GICHD website.
