

**The Mobilisation of Resources to Achieve the Convention's Aims
Intervention by the ICBL
23 April 2007**

Thank you Mr. Co Chair,

We would like to briefly highlight an issue related to mobilisation of **existing** resources for mine action, which is actually not taking place at all for certain countries, or not taking place fully for others, because of the mainstreaming of mine action funding into geographic and development budgetary lines of the major current donor for mine action, and that is the European Union.

This is of great concern because while we are all struggling to find the appropriate means to ensure mine action is conducted, we are observing **the loss of thousands and millions of euros because of *the heavyness of a decentralisation process, the loss of a focal point for mine action in Brussels; and the reluctance of national governments of some affected states, as well as representatives of the EC in some countries to consider mine action among the priorities that need to be included in the national development plans,*** especially in this case the EC Country Strategic Papers and National Indicative Programmes.

Out of the 376 M USD identified by Landmine Monitor last year as funding for mine action, 187 million came from the EU through the European Commission and EU members bilateral contributions, the EC contributing 51,5 million.

Over the last months, we have engaged with the EC and European Parliament on this issue to find out information about the latest status of the negotiation of these different new Country Strategic Papers and National Indicative Programmes. We know a number of affected States Parties have already submitted their plans without including mine action as a priority, meaning that they are at risk of being cut off from any mine action funding for the next 2-3 years.

We will approach EU members this week to talk further about this important problem, as well as affected states, and we hope that this issue will find its place on the agenda of the contact groups on Resource Mobilisation and Linking Mine Action into Development.

So in conclusion perhaps I could ask through you the European Commission to comment on some of the issues I have raised here.

Thank you.