

Canadian Statement  
Linking Mine Action and Development  
Intersessional Standing Committee Meetings  
2 June, 2008

The idea of linking mine action to development goes back to the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the Convention in Bangkok, in October 2003. Over some years the consensus view concluded that there is value in exploring how linking mine action to development will enhance both reaching the objectives of the Convention and benefit people affected by landmines. This led to the formal creation of the Contact Group on Linking Mine Action and development (CGLMAD).

The Contact Group meetings have as background a project sponsored by Canada and others that is currently underway and managed by the GICHD, to review the connections between mine action and development and to develop guidance for all parties involved. This project has brought together lessons from practical experience in the field, drawn from discussions with practitioners and a wide network of participants throughout the world. Draft guidelines are now available for a broad based consultation. These guidelines should be finalized in June and presented officially at the 9MSP.

This guidance will interest all those engaged in mine action, from donors and international organizations to national authorities and NGOs. At the contact group meeting last April it was felt by the participants that we needed to bring in more concrete examples of integration and that participants needed to be given the opportunity to speak about their own experience and challenges.

We have heard this message and the meeting tomorrow at 1, co-chaired by Canada and UNMACA, will centre around a session by practitioners working in the field and will provide ample opportunity for discussion/ debate. We urge you to join us.