

Canadian Statement  
Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies  
The Land Release Process  
June 4, 2008

Thank you Co-Chair

Canada acknowledges that the “Land Release Process” is not totally new. The process itself is a combination of three sub-processes all of which have some level of acceptability – certainly mine clearance and technical survey are well recognized parts of this land release process. Many operators will say, indeed many have said, that release of land through non-technical means is something they have been doing for some time. That may well be true, but it is also true that use of non technical means for releasing land has not had the same level of professional scrutiny as other methodologies until very recently.

In our review of extension requests, we also note that many countries that have submitted these requests have some form of land release through non-technical means – all producing impressive results - but all appear to have differing yardsticks for releasing land. In Canada’s view, it is time now to end the discussion on the land release process and to put this tool firmly in our mine action tool bag. To that end we support the process itself, the production of relevant mine action standards and the work of the Co-Chairs in bringing this forward to the next Meeting of States Parties.

Canada would also like to congratulate Norway for its dedicated work in advancing Land Release. We well recognize the tremendous effort that this taken, not least while moving forward on other very important initiatives, most notably what most of us were doing just last week in Dublin. We also would like to congratulate the Geneva Centre for its hard work and the UN Mine Action Service for development of relevant Mine Action Standards.

Thank you.