

Budapest Seminar

- You have heard a brief description of the proceedings of the Seminar, now let's examine some of the general conclusions of the meeting and perhaps look at the way forward from this point.
- The need to collect more detailed technical information was highlighted in the seminar's conclusions. This need has been targeted by the work of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining in developing a technical study of the PFM1 mine that will include experimental data from live trials. Adrian Wilkinson from the GICHD will elaborate on the technical details of this study later on in the program.
- There is clearly a need among donor countries to have reliable verifiable data about the mines so that data may be released to all parties that might be interested in developing a technical solution for the destruction of the PFM1 mine.
- This technical data will be an essential component of establishing a transparent tendering process where solutions may be evaluated using verifiable technical data. This process will ensure that the best technical approach can be selected and will provide the best possible insurance that the chosen solution will work in practice, as well as on paper.
- The issue of funding was raised as an important one. It is clear, given the number of mines in question that significant funds will be required to complete the destruction of these mines.
- Good donor coordination will be required in order to ensure that those funds are made available.
- The expiring shelf lives of these mines have been highlighted as both a safety concern and an environmental concern. Belarus has spoken about its situation but several other states in their region are in the same or more severe situation regarding stockpiles of PFM1 mines. This precarious situation should be of concern to all countries and we hope will prompt the contribution of resources to the destruction effort once the necessary technical studies have been completed.
- Donor funding will have to be channelled through an appropriate mechanism. This mechanism must be attached to an organisation that can act as a manager for the stockpile destruction program on behalf of international donors, and must include the necessary financial audit and technical verification
- The UNDP and NATO are two such mechanisms that were raised during the Budapest Seminar, but clearly the chosen mechanism will have to be discussed in close coordination with interested donors and countries possessing PFM1 stockpiles to ensure that it functions in the most efficient manner possible.

- Technical information on the PFM1 mine was contributed by countries possessing PFM1 mines, notably by Russia since the designer of the mine, Mr. Victor Popov was present at the workshop. This cooperation is a welcome sign of the commitment to stockpile destruction.
- Finally, the importance of proceeding in a coordinated fashion on this issue among all interested parties was highlighted. Forums such as this Intersessional Meeting provide an important mechanism to carry out this process and I especially note the participation of non-states parties with stockpiles, such as Belarus as an important component of this coordinated approach.