

### Resource Mobilization:

I would briefly like to comment with my *Austrian-hat* on, by thanking Norway for taking this initiative and for the very interesting presentations.

One major asset of this initiative is that we look at the question of mobilising resources in a more complete way. It is important to get away from the “classical” notion of donor and recipient states and look at the whole picture at what actually are relevant resources for mine-action and where they potentially can come from.

Information is therefore particularly important. Information as to:

- what resources are still required with regard to the implementation of the Convention and;
- what financial and human resources have been put into mine-action by, both donor and recipient states,

It is essential that mine-affected countries provide information about their own efforts in the field of mine action, which in many cases represents a huge national effort, which cannot easily be quantified in US-Dollar-terms.

We would therefore be very interested to hear more from mine-affected states how they define and prioritise their mine-action policies. If a mine-affected state defines the mine-problem in its country mainly as developmental, humanitarian, health, defence or environmental problem, then this should have a direct effect on how potential contributors allocate their resources.

By sharing information in this manner, I trust that we will be able to better understand what still needs to be done. It would also make it much easier to approach new potential contributors, such as multilateral organisations or the private sector, who, until now, may not have realised that mobilising resources for mine-action could be of interest for them.

Let me tell you briefly about the situation in Austria in this regard. As many of you may know, Austria played a very active role in the establishment of the Mine-Ban-Convention. The 1<sup>st</sup> draft of the Convention was elaborated by Austria and consulted upon at a conference in February 1997 in Vienna, which was a major stepping stone on the way to the adoption of the Convention in Oslo in September 1997.

As a result of this role, humanitarian mine action became one of the priority topics in the Foreign Ministry and the Department for Disarmament Affairs was given a special budget line for Austrian mine action programs. However, the allocation of a special budget line also meant that mine action projects and the relevant discussions in the Mine Ban Convention framework are taking place quite separately from the Austrian development cooperation program.

It is, of course, our firm intention to maintain mine action as a clearly defined political priority. Nevertheless, we are very interested in the debate that is taking place in many countries to involve increasingly the development cooperation ministries, defence ministries and other agencies when it comes to defining and funding mine action projects. It becomes more and more recognised that the landmine problem is a “cross-cutting” issue with many different aspects, which would also require flexible ways of resource mobilization and allocation. In the near future, there will be a reorganisation of our development cooperation structure, which – hopefully – will put us in a better situation to identify synergies between mine action and our other development cooperation programs.

In finding new sources for funding mine-action projects we still have to look at more imaginative ways to involve new actors, such as the private sector, communities and individuals. We just started on this more imaginative track, when the Austrian Foreign Ministry organised a benefit concert last week. The concert helped raised the awareness in Austria about the landmine problem

and also raised 200.000 Euro for mine-action programs of UNICEF and the Austrian Red Cross. We would be interested to learn about other such initiatives.