

Thank you Mr. Vice Chairman and thank you to Norway

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, fellow Mine action professionals

As a compliment to the States Parties roles in resource mobilization considered during February's Standing Committee meetings, we would like to consider the Regional International Organizations role.

What we propose to do in the space of 4-5 minutes and some 6 powerpoint panels is to outline the resource mobilization structure and requirement for the Americas Region as we see them. In general, they reflect :

- What is needed
- Where-When + Who (Why + How)

A good number of the distinguished representatives are familiar with the structure of Mine action Programs in the Americas from Prior meetings or Personal Contact with one or more National Programs, others are not. In order to interpret the resource requirements and mobilization panels, we've constructed a few introductory panels.

Integrated Mine action components in the Americas include: Humanitarian demining, mine awareness- mine victims assistance, stockpile destruction and advocacy which includes both advocacy for the Ottawa Convention as well as advocacy for the OAS Member States in support of their individual national mine action efforts.

The program concept adheres to this theoretical structure, which we have constructed to typify the functioning of the regional and national projects.

Beginning at the bottom of this graphic

Fundamentally a **humanitarian effort** characterized by peace building, reconciliation, restoration of Public Safety/Security and National Development.

Multilateral Participation refers to Intersectorial, Multiministerial and Multi Agency collaboration.

Needed Resources both financial and Technical are provided by the International community.

Civil Military cooperation refers to both the National level and Regional Level (We should note that in almost all cases National Military or Police have been designated as executive agents for demining operations.)

Key to the success at the National and Regional Levels are the beneficiary (colored) countries and their Commitment of National Resources to establish the national programs.

These Fundamentally National Efforts are supported by the four mechanisms indicated :

The Organisation of American States Provides overall coordination of International support including accountability and Transparency on the use of donors funding .

The Inter-American Defence Board provides technical advice and assistance (to the OAS) on matters of training, equipment selection and soon donor countries provide the needed funds and at times in-kind equipment donations or contributor countries are those OAS member States who provide a limited number of qualified military personnel to serve as international supervisors in Central America and International Monitors in South America.

Based on these concepts, national programs have been established in seven countries and reflect varying lengths of maturity ranging from Costa Rica, Beguining in 1996 and completed in december 2002 to Colombia where the framework agreement with the OAS was signed two months ago in March 2003.

Currently there are over 1008 demining personnel engaged in 5 of the affected countries and generally organized into 100 man Units.

Resources, particulary International funding for the problem currently in their 11th year of demining operations have been provided by the donors outlined on this lot.

Group # 1 reflects those donors who have been partners during most or all of the Period and whose contributions have funded entire 100 man units on repeated occasions. We have just signed a 1.3 million euro agreement with the European Union, although no funds have been disbursed as yet.

Group 2 represents those donors who have made repeated ? substantial contributions but that have not “sponsored” whole National Demining Units for Multiple year long periods.

Group 3 donors provided single or multiple contributions of funds or equiment to support one or more of the National Programs. I should note that in my haste on Friday, I failed to include South Korea in Group # 3. They have made very welcomed contributions of Light wheeled vehicles, including an ambulance, computer equipment and have offered technical demining equipment.

Over the course of our Regional Efforts, the donor community has provided a bit more than 42 million US Dollars, through the OAS. Our final panel reflects the projection of financial requirements for the period 2003-2009.

The charts 27 million dollars does not include, for example, the bilateral cooperation between Denmark and Nicaragua, which we understand to be about 1-1.5 million per year through 2005, nor does it include any bilaterals with Colombia. Estimates for Chile and other countries and activities are just that, preliminary estimates as we have not concluded other agreements to date.

You will note that resources requirements in Central America should decline over the next few years as those programs are concluded (Honduras 2003, Guatemala 2004, Nicaragua 2005). As programs in Peru, Ecuador and Colombia mature, they will require additional funding. Some, but not all of the requirements are covered by donor projections.

Members of our delegation would be happy to discuss resource mobilization issues and the Regional experience of the OAS during breaks on the margins of the meetings

This week, we hope that this contribution assists donors and mine affected States in their efforts to match resources to needs, in a timely fashion help set priorities, select potential donors.

To conclude and at the same time attempt to provoke discussion I would make two points, one on financing mine action in the Americas and one on donor/recipient dialogue on mine action efforts. Using the Americas Model, as we add up National contributions, Nations personnel equipment and regional donors we find that from between 60 and 70 % of the total cost as is borne by the Americas. The remaining 1/3 or less come from the generous resources provided by the donors we indicated earlier.