



Agenda item 10 (e)

Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention Cooperation and Assistance

Friday 2 December

Members of the United Nations Mine Action Team share the sentiments expressed in this room to congratulate Cambodia for being such an excellent host and for leading the promotion of the universalisation and effective implementation of the Convention.

As one of the most mine-affected countries with the highest number of landmine victims, the presence of landmines and ERW in Cambodia continues to be a serious obstacle for sustainable development as well as having a direct human cost. It is this human impact which is at the heart of the United Nations' commitment to assisting to eliminate the legacy of these weapons.

The United Nations Mine Action Team appreciates having had the opportunity to participate and contribute to the discussions related to the Standing Committee on Resources, Cooperation and Assistance and expresses its thanks to Albania for its able work to lead the work of the Standing Committee in the last year. We would like to highlight today that the United Nations remains committed to a constructive dialogue, including inter-agency dialogue, aiming at ensuring a more strategic, timely and effective assistance in mine action from the United Nations.

As many of you are aware, the United Nations Mine Action Team has been in the process of surveying progress towards achieving the objectives of the UN Mine Action Strategy, 2006-2010 in affected countries where there has been support from the United Nations. We wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to authorities of national mine action programmes for their engagement and responses, in cooperation with UN programme staff. We are currently reviewing the consultant's report of findings following a second issuance of a survey and plan to share the outcomes at a later point.

Pending a full review of the report, please allow me to share a few of these preliminary indications. Of the four Strategic Objectivesⁱ, significant progress was apparent in relation to reduction in death and injury – surpassing the target of 50% globally – and to more than the target of 15 countries having integrated mine action needs into national development and reconstruction

plans. The integration of mine action priorities into these plans has reinforced the capacity and efficacy with which affected countries pursued mine action.

The results also underlined the known fact that investment in national institutions has a multiplier effect when examining its relationship to other programming. However, it remains unclear whether appropriately-sized, trained and equipped national mine action capacities can achieve nationally-defined goals and objectives with little or no international support, whether it be technical, financial or other type of support. The analysis also suggests that increased capacity associated with international institutions does have a positive, and complementary, effect on national mine action programming.

The report also comes with a number of recommendations for improving measurability of results and the planning of support, which members of the United Nations Mine Action Team look forward to discussing further with affected states once we have completed the review and assessment of the report. We also expect to use these results to inform the development of the next UN mine action strategy, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, like affected states, donors and NGO partners.

Finally, the United Nations Mine Action Team reiterates its commitment to continue improving its assistance to mine-affected States Parties and to continue improving our broad cooperation with all relevant partners.

ⁱ Objective 1 : Reduction of death and injury by at least 50 percent
Objective 2: Mitigate the risk of community livelihoods and expand freedom of movement for at least 80 percent of the most seriously affected communities
Objective 3: Integration of mine action needs into national development and reconstruction plans and budgets in at least 15 countries
Objective 4: Assist the development of national institutions to manage the landmine/ERW threat, and at the same time prepare for residual response capacity in at least 15 countries.