

Non Paper by Norway

September 2002

Resources to achieve the Convention's humanitarian aims

Background

When the Mine Ban Convention was signed in 1997, some donor countries made multi year financial commitments to support the achievement of the objectives set out in the Convention. Such pledges were a logical follow-up to the political obligations contained in Article 6 of the Convention.

Following the entry into force of the Convention on 1 March 1999, many donor governments have honoured their commitments. Financial contributions to humanitarian mine action have steadily increased over the years, exceeding USD 1 billion since 1997.

Although the Convention is functioning well, we are still far from fully meeting its humanitarian objectives. More resources will be required if we are to meet the deadlines with respect to mine clearance in 2009. Victim assistance and socio-economic re-integration will still require considerable funding far beyond that date. The need for more financial support will become even more acute with the recent accession of the world's most mine-affected states, Afghanistan and Angola.

How to address the required implementation needs

The challenge in securing adequate financial support the implementation of the Convention must be overcome on the basis of the spirit of cooperation and partnership. We need to explore all avenues for mobilisation and best possible utilisation of resources.

- All States Parties "in a position to do so" have a responsibility to provide assistance in accordance with Article 6.
- Current donor countries should be encouraged to renew their financial commitments, while other potential donor countries must be called upon to contribute with increased financial support.
- Mine-affected countries should be encouraged to provide domestic resources in support of national programmes. That would imply giving higher priority to humanitarian mine action in national strategies for development and poverty eradication. External development donors (bilateral as well as multilateral) should respond to such a priority setting.
- Consideration should be given to how multilateral agencies could provide more funding to humanitarian mine action. Agencies like UNDP and UNICEF are already involved in this sector. We also need to consider how the World Bank as well as regional development banks may enhance their involvement.

- We need to explore how increased cooperation among mine affected countries could be facilitated, in order to build upon the benefits that already flow from those mine affected countries which are already assisting others by sharing their experiences and providing technical support.
- We need to motivate the private sector to increase its contribution to humanitarian mine action.
- We need to find more effective ways to link the needs of mine-affected countries with the donor community, to ensure that available resources are used in a best possible manner.

Suggestion for follow-up

There is a need to address all aspects of how to secure sufficient funding for reaching the aims of the Convention. To that end it might be useful to set up an informal contact group consisting of donor countries, mine-affected countries, multilateral development institutions, NGOs and the private sector.

Meetings in such a contact group could take place on the margins of the intersessional meetings. The group could consider established practices, make recommendations on improvements and come up with new suggestions on resource mobilisation.