

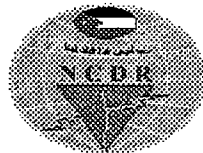
**Seventh Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty
Geneva, 18 – 22 September 2006**

Jordan Article 6 Statement

COMMENTS BY

***National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation (NCDR)
Jordan***

September 2006



Madame President, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to once again address the plenary this afternoon.

Madame President,

Over the past 2 years Jordan has ^{ADVANCED IN} ~~been able to accelerate~~ its mine action programme, ~~performance as it drives towards its May 2009~~ deadline.

The motivation for this drive is ^{WAS BEEN} ~~obvious~~ – our ~~strong~~ belief and concern with ridding our country of its landmine threat. However, we are not alone in embracing this motivation and desire. It pervades in the work of all states parties present here today.

The real secret to moving from this *vision* to its *reality* is complex, and dare I say, not prescriptive. What we in Jordan firmly believe, is that ^{ADVANCEMENT HAS BEEN} the ~~key~~ key to our ~~success~~ ^{ADVANCEMENT HAS BEEN} remains the creative **networks** and **partnerships** that have been forged over the past decade or more.

Clearly, these partnerships have had a strong international flavour to them, however, I would like to provide a Jordanian perspective on how we have interpreted and pursued national partnership building, as I think it is germane to our discussion surrounding **Article 6** and international cooperation.

Several years ago an innovative idea was proposed by Canada, and later championed by UNDP, to 'mainstream' mine action into development. The initiative had two main objectives:

First, to tap new sources of funding that were traditionally part of standard ODA programming; for example, existing budget lines relating to infrastructure, health, environment, and education – it was believed this new approach would broaden and deepen the funding base for mine action.

Second, mainstream into the national development discourses the cross-cutting relevance of mine action, and demonstrate its link to poverty reduction and achieving the MDGs at the local level.

We believe that these are worthwhile avenues of exploration, and participate in the informal **Contact Group on Development** which is chaired by Canada in trying to forward this notion.

One observation that we would like to share is; many of the efforts to expand mine action's resource base remain somewhat skewed towards the very donor sources bearing the majority of the financial brunt of funding mine action in the first place.

Although we in Jordan are traveling through difficult economic times at the moment, we are also painfully aware that the funding envelope for mine action is being stretched to the breaking point and we need

to find other, creative, *local* ways, to off-set the pressure on the international community's generous support for our noble quest.

In Jordan, we have tried extremely hard to construct new national partnerships that build on existing state institutions and responsibilities. These include, working technically more closely with our Army in the area of survivor and victim assistance; ~~Public Safety~~ ^{CIVIL DEFENSE} Department in the area of mine risk education; and Royal Geographical Centre on information sharing.

Madame President, I specifically mention these three examples because they are Government entities; they are funded and staffed by civil servants and represent ~~an indigenous~~ ^{A NATIONAL} and sustainable approach to fulfilling our Treaty obligations. In short, we see solutions that build on existing, or emerging, national capabilities and capacities to be the most strategic way forward.

I also mention these examples as a way of demonstrating how we are trying to mitigate the overall stress being placed on the international donor community and at the same time increase true national **ownership** and **partnership** of our mine problem.

Madame President, since our last gathering, less than a year ago in ~~historical~~ Zagreb, I am pleased to hear that so much progress has been made towards fulfilling the spirit and letter for the Convention.

As the pressures of time and resources increases on all of us, I urge us as a community to continue to partner, work together, and explore new ways of solving this very solvable man-made problem.

Thank You Madame President.