

**28 June 2011, 'Clearance and risk reduction'**

**Erik Tollefsen, GICHD**

Thank you Mr Chairman,

The GICHD, or more precisely Mr Michael Creighton and Mrs Åsa Gilbert from the Land Release unit at the GICHD together with other actors in the Mine Action sector (UNMAS, UNDP, CMC, ICRC) has been assisting the Government of Australia in putting together a discussion paper looking at **'application of all available methods for the efficient implementation of article 4'**.

We can learn from the changes we have made to the survey methodologies in dealing with areas contaminated by landmines, where we over time have developed an evidence based approach in order to deal with the problem. As mentioned by the Chairman just recently, a similar paper to this discussion paper was presented by Norway for the APMBC earlier. Scarce clearance assets should ideally only be used on actual contaminated land, and survey methodologies needs to be applied in order to release the land where there is no contamination.

Explosive sub-munitions are different from landmines. The way they are used, their specific weapons characteristics, the failure rate (in a post conflict situation, it is the bomblets that **did not** function the way they were designed that pose a hazard to life, livelihood, society and recovery) and the metal content of each item (the smallest of the explosive sub-munitions contain **500 times more** metal than a typical minimum-metal anti-personnel mine).

Metal detectors that have a very low **'False Alarm Rate'** without compromising on the 'Probability of Detection' – or hit-rate exists and are readily available off the shelf. Such detectors are probably not sensitive enough to find AP mines, but very effective in search for explosive sub munitions.

You can, when caution is being applied by specialist survey and clearance personnel walk on land that is contaminated with bomblets from cluster munitions. This is an obvious difference from land contaminated with anti-personnel mines.

This draft paper explores frameworks for such approaches to survey and clearance. It is evident that an opportunity exist when an area is know **not to** contain anti-personnel mines, to use a smarter, faster and more cost effective methodology in order to release land safely.

Thank you!