



## **Intersessional Meeting of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (27 – 30 June 2011)**

*Cooperation and Assistance – 29 June 2011*

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Dear colleagues,

As you well know, given ever present resource constraints, we need to be rigorous in identifying needs, priorities, and gaps in cooperation and assistance. Fulfilling obligations within the deadlines provided under the Convention, thus saving lives and limbs and enhancing both security and livelihoods, depends largely on effective cooperation and the efficient delivery of assistance.

As a partner of States Parties, as stated in Action 1 of the Vientiane Action Plan, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining wholeheartedly supports the Working Group's efforts. The Centre aims to intensify its focus on efficiency and effectiveness, including in cooperation and assistance, over the coming years, and we have proposed the following strategic objectives for our new Strategy:

1. Achieving global clarity – States Parties, including Norway, have articulated clear criteria governing the allocation of assistance. But resource allocations cannot be fully efficient or effective unless the extent and impact of the contamination problem is known both for individual countries and globally. The Centre will accelerate progress towards global clarity.
2. Delivering decision-support solutions for planning and prioritisation at both the strategic and operational levels – the Centre shall assist national authorities to implement programme-based approaches for resource allocation to improve performance and to reinforce national ownership, based on information management processes that have been tailored to the needs of national decision-makers in each country.

In this regard, the Centre would like to commend the initiatives of States Parties, such as Lao PDR, to develop multi-year strategies and plans, which create an essential framework for sound decision-making by all actors in a coordinated fashion.

3. Enabling countries to deliver value-for-money and to demonstrate success – The GICHD shall focus on closing the implementation gap between best practice and standard practice by accelerating the adoption of a more integrated, results-focused approaches, and by ‘raising the bar’ in terms of Quality Management.

Our new strategy also gives increasing emphasis to partnerships with other international and regional centres of excellence, as well as with UN agencies and operators. Enhanced cooperation among practitioners will complement the important work of this Working Group to ensure assistance is delivered efficiently and leads to accelerated progress on the ground.

At the risk of stating the obvious, we should like to take this opportunity to emphasise that efficiency and effectiveness are unreachable aims if we fail to consider the needs and aspirations of all people – women, girls, boys and men. As but one example of our partnership approach, the Centre is working ever more closely with our colleagues in the Gender & Mine Action Programme to ensure gender and diversity issues are mainstreamed.

We invite national authorities and their development partners who are committed to performance improvements, or who have developed innovative solutions that may be of use to other mine and cluster munitions-affected countries, to meet with us and discuss how the GICHD might contribute to their efforts.