

Maputo Review Conference on a Mine-Free World 23–27 June 2014

Statement by Dr Barbara Haering, President of the Council of
Foundation, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian
Demining

Mr President;

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and
gentlemen,

At the outset let me congratulate the Government of
Mozambique for its' leadership in preparing and chairing
this Conference – and let me thank the ISU for its
organizational strength.

We have come a long way from Maputo 1999 to apauto
2014! Thus, the Third Review Conference of the Mine
Ban Treaty marks a major milestone in our common
efforts to put an end to the suffering from antipersonnel
mines. During the last fifteen years the Convention has
proven to be a most effective instrument to protect
civilians and thus to foster human security. What in the
90ies had to be perceived as a global humanitarian
disaster has been framed to become clear national
responsibilities – thanks to the Convention.

However our job is not finished yet. Even though the efforts undertaken by states parties, international organisations and NGOs are impressive, we have to keep a strong focus on the implementation of the core obligations of the Convention in the years to come. Together, we will go the last miles and we support your ambition to achieve completion as soon as possible.

At the same time, it is also our responsibility to look at the Convention's accomplishments in a broader context. A number of additional initiatives and treaties have emerged since the adoption of the Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention 15 years ago. To mention: the Convention on Cluster Munitions, but also the CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War. The international legal regime addressing conventional weapons has thus been strengthened. Today, the Mine Ban Treaty can be seen as a key instrument among other conventions and efforts to increase human security. What a political and humanitarian progress!

This development offers the opportunity to establish a logic of synergies among those different instruments. This involves collaborations, partnerships as well as the development of shared approaches, agreed strategies—and it includes a mutual learning in order to increase our effectiveness and efficiency for the sake of mankind.

In this context, developing common approaches and initiatives in relation to victim assistance is particularly important. The ISU's publication on "Five Key Examples

of the Role of Mine Action in Integrating Victim Assistance into Broader Frameworks” as well as the recent conference on “Bridges between Worlds” both demonstrate the need and the potential of common approaches addressing challenges pertaining to different conventions and responsibilities.

In this spirit, we are also working towards developing comprehensive responses to address the problem of mines and of other explosive weapons. The Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention has shown how impactful a strong legal regime can be for the population and for sustainable development. However, we know that other types of mines continue to be a major humanitarian and developmental threat as well. In some countries today, anti-vehicle mines are causing even more casualties than anti-personnel mines. There is need for action.

The GICHD is currently developing its strategy for the coming four years. While we will continue to focus on our core responsibility to support state parties in complying with their obligations under the Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention and in developing solutions to sustainably address residual contamination after completion, we will increase our efforts in anchoring mine action in broader human security approaches. In doing so, we will ensure that mine action benefits from other sectors’ experience and expertise and at the same time contributes to the broader framework and goals of human security. All

together we will strive to reduce violence and promote sustainable development respecting the principle of “do no harm”.

We look forward continuing working with all of you towards a world free of mines, towards a better protection of civilians and towards increased human security.

I thank you for your attention.