



**Statement by the Slovenian delegation
FSC Plenary 25 February 2009**

Mr. Chairman, dear Colleagues,

Slovenia would like to draw your attention to the role of the International trust Fund for demining in addressing the landmine and ERW problem in Georgia. It is a national capacity building programme commenced in January 2009. The programme is focused in providing the assistance to the national authorities in setting up and developing the national mine action coordination centre initially located under the umbrella of the Ministry of Defence of Georgia.

The ITF signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Defence (MoD) Georgia on 23 October 2008 covering the national capacity building activities as well as mine victim assistance. Potentially, the cooperation can be extended to other services in the field of Mine Action, if required by the Georgian authorities.

Until now, Slovenia, Czech Republic and Hungary are participating in ITF training and development programme to establish national capacity in the field of mine action. Our delegation would like to thank Czech Republic and Hungary for their support.

More information about the program will be distributed to all participating states.



INTERNATIONAL TRUST FUND
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Subject: Briefing paper on ITF activities in Georgia

Legal framework and main national counterparts:

ITF signed 2-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Defence (MoD) Georgia on 23 October covering the national capacity building activities as well as mine victim assistance. Potentially, the cooperation can be extended to other services in the field of Mine Action, if required by the Georgian authorities.

ITF counterpart in **MoD Georgia** is the Department for International Relations and Euro-Atlantic Integration, while in the **Joint Staff of Armed Forces** the J-3 Operational Planning Department.

Mobilization of donor support:

So far, **Republic of Slovenia, Czech Republic, and Republic of Hungary are participating in ITF training and development programme** to establish national capacity in the field of mine action.

#	Donor	Amount donated
1	Republic of Slovenia	EUR 19.548,49
2	Czech Republic	EUR 193.206,85
3	Republic of Hungary	EUR 15.000,00
	Total	EUR 227.755,34

ITF is indicating that additional **donor support is required to develop Georgian Mine Victim Assistance programme** and implement actual projects on the ground.

ITF identified that **donor support is also needed for specific clearance operations** such as investigation, removal and destruction of large ordnance delivered by air.

Programme activities:

- **ITF national capacity building programme commenced in January 2009.** The programme is focused in providing the assistance to the national authorities in setting up and developing the national mine action coordination centre initially located under the umbrella of the Ministry of Defence of Georgia.

- For the purpose of coordinating and facilitating the activities on the field ITF assigned to the national authorities **ITF Training and Development Coordinator** as a part of the programme until the end of 2009. ITF coordinator is assigned with following tasks: a.) assisting and providing the advice to national authorities in capacity development, b.) organize, coordinate and carry out specific training and development activities, c.) monitor and supervise the training and development activities within ITF programme and d.) liaise with relevant institutions and stakeholders in the field of mine action in Georgia.
- Furthermore, in order to ensure effective and efficient delivering of the assistance ITF started with the **analysis of the technical and professional development training needs** of the key local stakeholder organizations. The analysis will be concluded by the end of March 2009.
- Based upon the analysis findings ITF will **define and schedule the training and development activities** in the following fields by early spring 2009: Mine Action Management, Mine Action Standards and Standard Operating Procedures, Quality Management, Mine Action Information System, General Assessment and General/Technical Survey, Project Development and Documentation and Mine Victim Assistance. **The training and development activities will be implemented by ITF either in- and/or out-of-country.**
- Additionally, ITF has continued **to provide the advice to the MoD and Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Georgia on the development of mine action programme.**
- As a part of the national capacity efforts ITF joined forces with ICRC and Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia to **implement a regional workshop in the field of Disability Sector Development with focus on Integrated Mine Victims Assistance.** The 3-day workshop is planned to be organized by ITF in the first week of May 2009.
- **ITF continued to exchange information and harmonize its activities** on the ground with other organizations involved in national capacity building efforts, namely NATO NAMSA and NGO Information Management and Mine Action Programs (iMMAP) as well as ERW clearance operators NGO HALO Trust and Norwegian People's Aid. Furthermore, ITF visited following embassies and/or representative offices in Tbilisi since October 2008: Czech Republic, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Hungary, the United States, OSCE and European Commission.
- ITF also identified together with Georgian national authorities assisted by iMMAP the need to tackle the problem of large ordnance incidents recorded in some 245 reports; for this purpose **ITF prepared the proposal to create an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team within Norwegian People's Aid country programme** and started to mobilize funding.

Current Mine and Explosive Remnants of War Problem:

It is estimated that **over 13,5 million square meters of land is impacted by cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war** and will be cleared through battle area clearance procedures. Additionally, there are **some 245 reports on aerial bomb/projectiles locations**, which should be checked and removed properly, according to international safety standards. Demining activities are limited to **a legacy mine fields, i.e. up to 30 locations**,

and are currently not a high priority for the first half of 2009. Anyway, all the clearance activities commenced last year and will be in progress in 2009.

In the recent conflict and afterwards 20-30 people believed to be involved in mine/ERW incidents. However, there is no comprehensive or coordinated mine/ERW casualty data collection mechanism in Georgia. **The total number of mine casualties is not known.** ICBL-Georgian Committee reported having recorded 383 casualties from 2001 to May 2007.