



## CCW 4<sup>th</sup> Review Conference

### Statement

by Ambassador Stephan Husy, Director,  
Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining

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Mister President,

- > The GICHD is dedicated to support policies and action that rid the world of mines and other explosive hazards. Our vision is that all individuals and communities shall be able to live in a safe environment, conducive to development. Mine action is a concrete and important contribution to armed violence reduction and peace building.
- > The mission of the GICHD is to serve as a centre of excellence on mine action, and to help States Parties to implement the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the Convention on Cluster Munitions and other relevant instruments of international law.
- > In that sense, the GICHD is supporting the work of the CCW through expert advice, presentations on specific topics during the Meetings of Experts on Amended Protocol II and on Protocol V, and publications such as the Guide to Mine Action and the Implementation of CCW Protocol V. In addition, the GICHD is managing the CCW Sponsorship programme, based on a decision of the Third Review Conference.
- > I would like to emphasize two CCW issues that are important for GICHD's work in the coming years: The first one relates to the decision of the Fifth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V to "further explore, building on previous discussions of priority-setting and quality management, appropriate practical methods to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in ERW clearance programmes". We fully agree with this objective and are convinced that there is great potential for improvement. Moreover, demining must be based on reliable data which makes sound information management a defining feature of effective mine action programmes.
- > The second issue is the increased importance of and attention to ammunition stockpile management and destruction. Aging, unstable, and excess stockpiles of conventional weapons and munitions pose dual threats of illicit proliferation and



accidental explosion, which could cause humanitarian disasters and destabilize individual countries or regions as a whole. The GICHD is developing a coordinated, approach to secure and destroy stockpiles of ammunition prohibited by international conventions and surplus munitions, by building local capacity, and sharing best practices and lessons learned.

- > We look forward to cooperate with States Parties, the UN and other relevant partners in addressing these challenges.

Thank you, Mister President.