

\* Revised from  
earlier version  
submitted

Jan. 17, '06

## CANADIAN INTERVENTION – CLUSTER IV

### INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE

Delivered by Earl Turcotte – Head of the Canadian Delegation

Thank you Mr. Moderator,

1. This community has dedicated itself for the past decade or more to determining what action must be taken to stop the killing associated with the illegitimate use of small arms and light weapons. This culminated in the *Programme of Action* which, as mentioned earlier, Canada believes is an excellent foundation upon which to build.

Notwithstanding some progress to date, full implementation of the programme of action and any subsidiary agreements that flow from it, will require a significant and substantial increase in dedicated human, technical, and financial resources.

This is clearly recognized and we have heard numerous and repeated calls in national statements for greater international cooperation and assistance.

2. We have been trying to get a clear sense of current levels of funding for international cooperation and assistance, not including domestic expenditures. We stand to be corrected, but the best estimate seems to be in the order of USD 25 million per year worldwide, a remarkably modest amount given the human and development costs associated with the misuse of firearms.

Even if it were double that amount, \$50 Million per year, this is still less than one-tenth the amount we collectively contribute annually for mine action – specifically anti-personnel landmines which, insidious as they are, as a result of a concerted international effort, now kill 20 times fewer people than do small arms alone.

3. We believe there is much to be gained by looking to the experience with AP landmines where the 148 States Parties to the Ottawa Convention have voluntarily assumed hard targets and deadlines.

Affected states are obliged to destroy stockpiles within 4 years of the Convention's entry into force for the affected country, and to clear all known mined areas under their control within 10 years.

As most affected countries are in the developing world, many require assistance to achieve such ambitious objectives. For this reason, the Convention also obliges countries in a position to do so to provide technical and financial support to enable affected countries to meet their targets and deadlines.

In addition, several of the 43 or so states not-party to the Ottawa Convention also dedicate substantial resources to mine action. The United States for example is, I believe, contributing something in the order of \$70 million dollars this year.

The grand total, then, is somewhere between \$500 million and \$600 million per year to address a single weapon, anti-personnel landmines, compared to \$25 million or so in international assistance to address the full range of small arms and light weapons.

4. Our challenge then is clear. It is to back up the political will – our shared commitment – to fully implement the Programme of Action, with the resources required to adequately address this issue;

- to provide relevant information and technical assistance to assist nations to generate appropriate legislation;
- to develop local capacity to disarm, demobilize and reintegrate ex-combatants; to mark and trace small arms;
- to properly manage stockpiles and destroy surplus stocks, and
- to meet the full range of physical, psychological and social needs of survivors and provide them with the skills so they can be reintegrated into their societies as full productive members.

With respect to the last item, Canada has submitted a thematic non-paper on Assistance to Survivors for consideration, which was produced by the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue. We wish to thank Cate Buchanan and her team for their excellent work.

5. Mr. Moderator, we have proposed for consideration at the Review Conference, the creation of a Contact Group on Communications and Resource Mobilization as part of an informal Intersessional Programme of Work.

We must and we can raise the profile of this issue and do the things several delegations have spoken of in our thematic debates, including ensuring that SALW programming is part of the national development plans and budgets of severely affected countries; and that the UN, World Bank, Regional Development Banks, development cooperation agencies, international organizations and development NGOs include it among their humanitarian and development programming priorities.

With respect to SALW as a humanitarian and development issue, Canada thanks the Netherlands for its excellent non-paper and hopes that it might serve as the basis for in-depth discussion of this issue at the Review Conference and the years following.

6. Finally, we need to engage the media, to attract well known, committed individuals to this cause, and develop strategies to generate greater political will, private sector support and support from the general public.

**In short, we recommend taking a campaign approach, setting ambitious implementation goals, and identifying and actively pursuing the full range of potential sources of funding that we will need to put our words and our ideals into action – then we need to get the job done.**

**Thank You Mr. Moderator**