DECISION
ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CONVENTION ON PROHIBITIONS OR
RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS
WHICH MAY BE DEEMED TO BE EXCESSIVELY INJURIOUS OR TO HAVE
INDISCRIMINATE EFFECTS

The Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or
Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be
Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects:

1. Decides to establish a Sponsorship Programme within the framework of the
   Convention;

2. Agrees on the following general principles:
   (i) contributions to the Programme will be made on a voluntary basis;
   (ii) this Programme will be conducted in an informal and flexible way with full respect
        for the specific ad hoc nature of the Convention-related meetings;

3. Sets the following basic goals for the Sponsorship Programme:
   (i) to strengthen the implementation of the Convention and its annexed Protocols;
   (ii) to promote universal observance of the norms and principles enshrined in the
        Convention and its annexed Protocols;
   (iii) to support the universalization of the Convention and its annexed Protocols;
   (iv) to enhance the cooperation, the exchange of information and the consultations among
        the States Parties on issues related to the Convention and its annexed Protocols;

4. Sets the following basic operational purposes for the Sponsorship Programme:
   (i) to support the participation of the representatives of States Parties, especially from
       ERW- and mine-affected States that have limited resources, to participate in activities related
       to the Convention. Priority should be given to States Parties which, according to the United
       Nations, are the least developed countries;
   (ii) to provide Signatory States and States not yet parties to the Convention and its
        Protocols with an opportunity to participate in activities related to the Convention and to
        become acquainted with the work related to the Convention. Preference should be given to States which,
        according to the United Nations, are the least developed countries, States which are on the path towards accession to the Convention and its annexed Protocols, and States
        which are engaged in activities related to their own implementation of the Convention and its
        Protocols;
   (iii) to support the attendance of appropriate qualified experts with field experience or of
         scholars, particularly from the States referred to in paragraph 4(i), to prepare studies and/or
         presentations on certain topics of interest at relevant meetings or seminars;
   (iv) to provide other related forms of assistance that might be deemed appropriate by the
        States Parties;

5. Decides that the Sponsorship Programme will operate according to the following
   basic operational modalities:
   (i) States Parties entrust the technical management of the Programme to the Geneva
       International Center for Humanitarian Demining;
An informal Steering Committee (hereinafter “the Committee”) will set operational modalities which have not been specified in this decision and ensure the guidance of the day-to-day implementation of the Sponsorship Programme; it will be constituted by representatives of donor States to this Programme and the UNDDA;

The Committee will operate in a transparent way: for this purpose, representatives of the three Regional Groups and China; the President-designate of the Meeting of the States Parties; and representatives of UNMAS will be invited to participate in its meetings as observers and advisors. It is understood that every State Party may ask to be heard by the Committee.

The Committee will take all decisions related to the operation of the Sponsorship Programme, including the granting of travel and daily subsistence allowances for participation in the activities related to the Convention or to other expenditures, in accordance with the basic goals and the operational purposes of the Programme as spelled out above;

The Committee will report annually on its activities, including on the beneficiaries of the Programme, to the States Parties. The Programme, and its *modus operandi*, will be reviewed and assessed by States Parties at the next Review Conference;

The funds allocated to the Sponsorship Programme will be subject to an audit by an external auditor and audit reports will be sent to all members of the Committee, and made available upon request to any State Party by the United Nations.