



**THE
UNITED
NATIONS
MINE ACTION**

**MESSAGE FROM
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UNITED NATIONS UNDER SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS
TO THE 11TH MEETING OF MINE ACTION PROGRAM DIRECTORS AND UN ADVISERS
LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA, 14 APRIL 2008**

Welcome to the 11th meeting of mine action program directors and United Nations advisers. I am pleased that part of this meeting will be held in a mine-affected country, one which has assumed full responsibility for the management and implementation of its mine action program.

The transition to national ownership of mine action programs is the cornerstone of the United Nations inter-agency mine action strategy for 2006 to 2010. The United Nations will continue to work with national authorities and others to reduce the humanitarian and socio-economic threats of landmines and explosive remnants of war until mine-affected countries have the technical, financial and human resources to address the problem on their own.

We have ample reason to congratulate ourselves on our achievements in eliminating the threats thus far. But we are all aware of the magnitude of the work that lies ahead.

I wish you a successful and productive meeting. When you meet again next year, I will no longer be the chairman of the United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action. I am hopeful that my successor will continue to support the cause of mine action, and I am confident that all of you have a clear sense of the way forward and a commitment to finishing the job.