

*Oral Statement Delivered by the Chairman of the SNF/SRRC (Somalia)*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you are aware, Somalia has experienced 14 years of civil war. As a result, so much life has been lost. Among the arsenal used were landmines. These have caused a devastating effect on human beings and property, and have led vast agricultural land to waste.

I am one of the signatories to the Deed of Commitment from Somalia. I am glad to report that I represent all the other colleagues who have signed the Deed of Commitment from Somalia. Although we expect a working government soon, the problem is beyond way and above a new cherished government.

In South and Central Somalia alone there are hundreds of thousands of mines. The complexity of the problem is made worse by the fact that these regions are unstable. I would therefore urge Geneva Call not to relent in their advocacy since Geneva Call is already a household name.

What might have been seen or reported is just the tip of the iceberg. Lives of humans and livestock are lost on a daily basis due to this menace in the areas of Middle and South Somalia. The situation is made more complex by the fact that recurring conflicts occur in these areas. An example is the current conflict between the SPM and the JVA that affects almost four provinces. The question is should the international community ignore the plight of the inhabitants. I request Geneva Call not to do so.

In conclusion I would like to assert that I am ready to discuss the location of minefields in GEDO region and the stocks held by SNF/SRRC, the group I chair. Finally, although I cannot speak for the other groups regarding their stockpiles, I have been sent to assure you that they are willing to discuss openly with Geneva Call as and when called upon regarding the above subject.

Thank you.

Mohamud Sayid Aden  
Chairman  
SNF/SRRC