



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

First Preparatory Meeting for the Second Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, 29 June 2020

Statement under Agenda item 5: Exchange of views on the preparation of documents for the Second Review Conference

Delivered by Mr. Bruno Donat, Chief, Geneva Office, UNMAS

Mr. President,

On behalf of UNMAS and on behalf of all members of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA),¹ let me start by congratulating you for your hard work and dedication to making the Second Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions a success under these difficult circumstances.

For the United Nations, the new working papers published on 18 June 2020 show considerable progress in the development of the Review Document and the Lausanne Action Plan and we would like to thank you for the inclusive approach you have taken in the development of these key documents. The United Nations appreciates that many of its substantial comments have been incorporated in the new working papers.

Excellencies,

The United Nations calls for the complementarity between the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Convention to be highlighted, since the current draft Review Document only speaks of the SDGs as competing pressing priorities hindering States’

¹ The Department of Peace Operations (DPO)/ United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) (Chair), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN Development Programme (UNDP), Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) (Observer), and the World Bank (Observer).



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accession or adherence to the CCM. Instead, the pursuit of a rights-based approach to victim assistance can bolster efforts to meet SDGs related to health and well-being, quality education, gender equality and more, while the clearance and destruction of cluster munitions and risk education can accelerate the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies.

With respect to the working paper on Elements for the Lausanne Action Plan, the United Nations welcomes the inclusion of a new section on cross-cutting principles.

First, the United Nations appreciates that the contribution of the Convention towards meeting the “broader agenda of the international community, including the SDGs”,² has been acknowledged as one such principle.

Second, on gender and diversity considerations, the United Nations supports that this principle is mainstreamed and spelled out in more concrete terms in all relevant sections of the Lausanne Action Plan. The United Nations Gender Guidelines for Mine Action Programmes further illustrate how gender considerations can be included in different stages of mine action programming, which would usefully assist the sector in consistently incorporating gender mainstreaming in its programmes.

Third, the United Nations would like to reiterate the importance of other issues that we propose could form additional cross-cutting principles, namely the meaningful participation of victims and survivors in all aspects relating to the implementation of the Convention and the equitable prioritization of areas of action to benefit society and affected populations and to lead to solutions, for instance by encouraging the sustainable return of displaced populations.

Fourth, the United Nations agrees that a new section dedicated to Risk Education should be created. The United Nations would like to call for enhanced consistency throughout the text

² Elements for the Lausanne Action Plan, 18 June 2020, UN Doc. CCM/CONF/2020/PM.1/WP.4, para. 10.



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and supports the use of ‘Risk Education’ in lieu of ‘Risk Reduction Education’ throughout the Action Plan. The general considerations under this section could further highlight that Risk Education aims for at-risk persons to adopt and sustain safe behaviour. This contributes to a broader health outcome, namely the reduction of incidences.

The United Nations wishes to also recall its vision of a world free of “all explosive ordnance”. Risk education must therefore be inclusive of all types of explosive ordnance, including cluster munition remnants. The universalization and full implementation of this Convention is a significant factor in saving lives.

Thank you.