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United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action
Eleventh Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster
Munitions

Statement for the General Exchange of Views

Geneva, 11 September 2023

Delivered by UNMAS

Mr. President,

The following statement is delivered on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA)¹, comprising United Nations entities engaged in mine action.

The United Nations congratulates you on your leadership of the Convention in Iraq, in the Arab region, and globally. We thank you for hosting events in New York and Baghdad to promote peacebuilding and development in the Arab region through the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

It is encouraging to see that cluster munitions clearance, led by the Government of Iraq, is enabling development in the Zubair district of Basra governorate where land has been cleared for agricultural purposes and in support of increased oil production, as well

¹ The Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA) brings together United Nations entities involved in mine action. Twelve United Nations Departments and Offices of the Secretariat, specialized agencies, funds and programmes are members of the IACG-MA: the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) of the Department of Peace Operations (DPO), the Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and the World Bank are observers.



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as in Salman district of Muthanna governorate, where clearance is allowing animal grazing.

Iraq has committed significant resources to mine action and we take this opportunity to express support for Iraq's extension request. We look forward to Iraq being free of cluster munitions remnants by 1 November 2028.

Mr. President,

We would like to congratulate Ms. Pamela Moraga on her appointment as Director of the Implementation Support Unit and wish her every success in this important function. We take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the previous Director, Ms. Sheila Mweemba for her work and the promising regional initiatives she spearheaded.

Mr. President, distinguished delegates,

Cluster munitions have a devastating human cost. Long after conflict has ended, their remnants kill and maim civilians, hamper economic and social development, threaten food security, impede post-conflict reconstruction, and negatively impact peace-building and humanitarian assistance efforts.

Cluster munitions are wide-area effect weapons that can result in indiscriminate harm, especially when used in populated areas. The use of cluster munitions is inhumane, and economically and environmentally unacceptable.



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The Secretary-General has repeatedly called for an end to their use, which, in his words “*must be consigned to history*”. Most recently, in his Policy Brief on A New Agenda for Peace, he asked Member States to reduce the human cost of weapons, including by achieving universality of treaties banning indiscriminate weapons, such as this Convention.

Mr. President, distinguished delegates,

The United Nations wishes to alert States Parties that funding for mine action is inadequate. The UN works in partnership with civil society to optimize resources through the Mine Action Area of Responsibility within the Global Protection Cluster. In many countries, we lack the funding required to coordinate information management, victim assistance, or risk education.

Thank you.