



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

**Third Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions
Oslo, 13 September 2012**

Statement on Universalization

**Delivered by Ms. Agnès Marcaillou, Director, UNMAS
on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action (IACG-MA)**

Mister President,

I deliver the following statement on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action (IACG-MA), comprising the 14 United Nations Departments, Agencies, Funds, and Programmes involved in mine action.

First of all the United Nations joins others to congratulate the twelve States¹ that have acceded to the Convention since the Second Meeting of States Parties in Beirut last year. With 75 States Parties, the Convention is making steady progress towards its universalization.

The United Nations appreciated the presentations made by the Coordinators, Japan and Portugal, as well as by Mr. Umarbek Pulodov from the CMC.

It is our hope that more cluster munitions-affected countries, as well as countries with stockpiles of cluster munitions will join the Convention in the near future.

The Secretary-General has repeatedly called upon States to accede to the Convention as a matter of urgency. It is the hope of the United Nations that more cluster munitions-affected countries, as well as countries with stockpiles of cluster munitions, join the Convention without delay.

Advocacy efforts by the United Nations take place on the ground. Members of the IACG-MA use their extended presence in the field, including when providing support to mine action programmes, to encourage states to accede to the Convention.

In particular UNDP has taken a very active role in promoting the universalization of the Convention; firstly by managing an effective sponsorship programme that allows all interested developing countries to actively participate in the CCM meetings; and, secondly, by supporting regional events, such as the African Regional Conference for the Universalization of the CCM, held in Accra, on 28-30 May 2012. On this point, the

¹ Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Hungary, Italy, Mauritania, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo and Trinidad and Tobago.

United Nations wishes to take the opportunity to thank Ghana for hosting this event and would like to encourage States from other regions to undertake similar initiatives.

Consistent with our common and shared vision of a world free from the threat of landmines, cluster munitions and explosive remnants of war, the United Nations system continues to support strongly universal adherence to the Convention - an important measure, as mentioned by the Secretary-General in his message, not only to prevent future proliferation and use of cluster munitions but also to enhance the protection of civilians in armed conflicts.

To conclude, the United Nations welcomes your initiative, Mr. President, to discuss how the CCM could be used to enhance compliance with core rules of international humanitarian law, such as the rules of distinction and proportionality, and to effectively reduce harm to civilians from the use of other explosive weapons with wide area effects.

Thank you.