



## **United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action**

### **Fifth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions**

#### **Statement on Transparency Measures**

##### **Agenda item 10(f)**

**San José, 4 September 2014**

*Delivered by Ms. Abigail Hartley, Chief of Policy, Advocacy and Public Information, United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)*

The following statement is delivered on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action<sup>1</sup> (IACG-MA), comprising 14 United Nations entities involved in mine action.

It is important to recall that transparency measures and national reporting are a legal obligation, as well as a mechanism to build confidence among all stakeholders and a tool to measure progress of the implementation of the Treaty.

The benefits of data collection and reporting were presented and discussed throughout the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Mine Action National Programme Directors and United Nations Advisors held in April this year. Deliberations underlined that quality reporting yields tangible results. Timely and accurate reporting builds the confidence among States Parties, as well as that of donors and other stakeholders and is essential to informing international cooperation and assistance interventions, including by the United Nations.

The United Nations welcomes the timely submission of reports by State Parties and encourages the sharing of information on best data collection practices.

However, reporting is still pending for a large number of States Parties. The San José Progress Report cites the current rate of annual reporting to be 53%, which is down from a high of 72%. The United Nations notes again with concern this low rate of reporting as it appears to confirm a decreasing trend.

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

Accuracy and timeliness of national reporting are a matter of compliance with Convention obligations; they are essential for the monitoring of the progress of the Convention. The United Nations encourages Member States to renew their commitment to transparency measures as a matter of urgency.

In addition to Article 7 reports, the United Nations also encourages the collection and sharing of information by other means. Recording incidents related to explosive remnants of war into existing national injury surveillance systems, for instance, can be beneficial and supply sustainable data that can serve as a basis for reporting.

The United Nations thanks Belgium for its efforts and leadership on the subject of Transparency Measures.

I thank you, Mr. President.