



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action
Fifteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
(28 November – 1 December 2016)

Statement on Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance

Santiago, 30 November 2016

Mr. President,^{1 2}

The following statement is delivered on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA) comprising the United Nations entities³ involved in mine action.

The United Nations welcomes the report on the activities of the Committee, and its preliminary observations. International cooperation and assistance is an essential part of the Convention, as stronger partnerships between States Parties, international organizations and civil society could minimize and eventually end the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines.

The Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2013-2018 is a roadmap to enhance cooperation and assistance, with Strategic Objective 3 promoting ownership and the strengthening of national capacity. It is notable that the Monitoring & Evaluation mechanism survey, in the most recent assessment of data, indicated that 42 per cent⁴ of

¹ Heraldo Muñoz, Foreign Minister of Chile

² Members of Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance: Switzerland (Chair), Mexico, Netherlands and Uganda.

³ The Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) / 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).

⁴ 10 out of 24 of countries participating in the survey have completed the transition process.



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participating countries⁵ completed this process of transition, with an additional 19 per cent currently in the process of transitioning.

The United Nations fosters the enhancement of cooperation and assistance with national authorities engaged in mine action. In Yemen, for example, UNICEF is supporting the Yemen Executive Mine Action Centre (YEMAC) to play a more significant role in coordination, supervision and monitoring of Mine Risk Education. Similarly, in Myanmar, the Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Rehabilitation and UNICEF co-chair the national Mine Risks Working Group. Four such similar working groups have been established at the state level. This cooperation resulted, in May 2016, in a common Mine/ERW Risk Education toolkit field tested, and subsequently approved by the Government.

In Somalia, UNMAS provides strategic policy advice and coordination support to the government through the Badbaado Plan for the clearance of mines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW). Furthermore, UNMAS assists the federal and sub-federal entities to establish a common understanding of ERW in Somalia with a view to, *inter alia*, enhance standardized national capacities and solutions in line with the Badbaado Plan and National Development Plan (NDP).

Additionally, the United Nations has witnessed notable examples of cooperation and assistance between States Parties of the Convention. For example, the Afghanistan Mine Action Programme has benefitted greatly from the experience of the Tajikistan Mine Action Centre through a number of study visits facilitated by UNMAS in the

⁵ Figures taken from most recent report issued in August 2016 based on data provided from participating programmes. See section 2.5 *on National Ownership and National Policy* in latest report at <http://www.mineaction.org/sites/default/files/documents/UN%20Mine%20Action%20Strategy%20-%20Fourth%20Round%20M%26E%20Report.pdf>



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context of its South-South cooperation programs. Afghan staff have learned how the Tajik Centre transferred coordination functions from the United Nations to government institutions, a process that is now nearing completion in Afghanistan.

Such examples of cooperation between affected countries are encouraged, and it is worthy to note that the Recommendations of this Committee also suggests exploring complementary platforms to foster direct dialogue and partnership between States Parties.

In light of the increased complexity of conflicts, new mine usage by non-state actors, the alarming flows of refugees and internally displaced peoples, it is more important than ever that cooperation and assistance remains a fundamental priority of the States Parties in achieving the obligations of the Convention, as well as a “2025 Mine-Free World.”

Thank you.