



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

Intersessional Meeting of the Convention on Cluster Munitions

Statement on Clearance and Risk Reduction

Geneva, 22 June 2015

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

Mr. President,

Firstly, UNMAS would like to express its gratitude to the coordinators Switzerland and Bosnia and Herzegovina, for the invitation to participate in this working group, and thank them for their work on this section of the Dubrovnik Action Plan.

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

Article 4 of the CCM goes beyond establishing a deadline for completing clearance of all known cluster munition remnants. In addition to necessary and targeted emergency clearance, surveys should be put in place to identify and ascertain the extent of the problem, and national clearance strategies should be based on these assessments. Planning and delivering non-technical and technical surveys are the crucial first steps in establishing the extent of contamination, as well as ensuring cost effective use of clearance resources. Risk reduction education and other preventive measures, such as marking and fencing, are crucial to preventing deaths and injuries while clearance progresses.

Affected States Parties are reminded of the useful guidance the International Mine Action Standards, or IMAS, provides for the implementation of Article 4 obligations, including on land release standards. IMAS is the result of an inclusive technical consultative process led by the United Nations and represents best practice in mine action. IMAS is not static and is reviewed regularly, thus giving the necessary flexibility to adapt to needs. This was recognized by the negotiators of the CCM who decided to make a specific reference to IMAS in paragraph 3 of Article 4.

The United Nations highlights the continued relevance of paragraph 4 in Article 4, which encourages States Parties that have used cluster munitions in the past to provide assistance to facilitate identification, marking, clearance and destruction of cluster munitions, as well as information on past use of cluster munitions. As the United Nations expects former users of cluster munitions to join the CCM, this clause is set to increase in relevance in coming years.

¹ 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).



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The United Nations remains ready to address requests for assistance by affected States Parties by supporting them in accordance with the provisions in Article 4.

Thank you.