



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

Intersessional Meeting of the Convention on Cluster Munitions

Statement on Universalization

Geneva, 22 June 2015

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

Mr. President,

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.

The United Nations should like to thank the coordinators, Norway and Ecuador, for their work on this section of the Dubrovnik Action Plan.

The partnerships between States, the United Nations and other international organizations, the ICRC and civil society have contributed to promoting the universalization of the CCM and the provisions it has established. Six States have joined the CCM after the Fifth Meeting of States Parties in San Jose, Costa Rica,² including one where cluster munitions have been used. The United Nations welcomes Canada, Guinea, Guyana, Paraguay, South Africa and the State of Palestine as States Parties to the CCM. The United Nations also acknowledges the universalization efforts by countries in the Central America region, making it the first sub-region free of cluster munitions.

While the United Nations recognizes the progress made on the CCM ratification, there are still many signatory States that have yet to ratify the CCM. The United Nations encourages them to do so as a matter of urgency and remains committed to assist in relevant advocacy efforts.

The United Nations will take every opportunity to encourage accession to the CCM and calls on all participants to do the same. For instance, initiatives such as the Kampala universalization workshop for the East African region that was held in May provided the United Nations with the opportunity to discuss challenges and progress for national accession to the CCM.

In addition to other obligations in the text, the universalization of the Convention is what will ultimately guarantee the future protection of lives and livelihoods from the harm caused by cluster munitions.

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).

² Canada, Guinea, Guyana, Paraguay, South Africa and State of Palestine.



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It is with great concern that we learn that in addition to previous reports, recent and repeated use of cluster munitions have been recounted in Syria³. Furthermore, there are unconfirmed reports on the use of cluster munitions in Libya⁴, Ukraine⁵ and in Yemen⁶. These four States are not parties to the Convention.

Also, evidence was collected of two air-delivered cluster bombs near a village in Northern Darfur. They were disposed of safely by the United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), as reported in the Secretary-General's last report on UNAMID. In his May report⁷ to the Security Council, the Secretary-General called on the Government of Sudan to immediately investigate the use of cluster munitions in Northern Darfur, which are prohibited under international law and pose a particular threat to the civilian population.

It is recalled that the President's summary from the 5MSP in San José mentioned that States Parties present shared the assessment of the humanitarian impact caused by cluster munitions, and the need to react when the protection of civilians is threatened by the use of cluster munitions.

The United Nations condemns the use of these conventional explosive weapons and is seriously concerned by their effects, especially when used in populated areas. Recent research undertaken by United Nations mine action programmes confirms the deadly impact of these explosive hazards and their disproportionate negative effect on civilians.⁸ The United Nations urges all Member States, in particular those bound by the CCM, to raise their concerns and effectively put an end to this harm.

As of the section on Universalization in the draft Dubrovnik Action Plan, States Parties ought to consider language to enhance the importance of partnerships, as well as to reinforce the issue of stigmatization from cluster munitions.

Thank you.

³ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2014/02/18/syria-new-deadly-cluster-munition-attacks>

⁴ <http://www.hrw.org/news/2015/03/14/libya-evidence-new-cluster-bomb-use>

⁵ <http://www.hrw.org/news/2015/02/04/dispatches-more-cluster-munition-use-ukraine>

⁶ <http://www.hrw.org/news/2015/05/03/yemen-saudi-led-airstrikes-used-cluster-munitions>

⁷ S/2015/378

⁸ Data and analysis from the Mechanism for Monitoring and Evaluation for "The Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2013-2018."