



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

Intersessional Meeting of the Convention on Cluster Munitions

Statement on International Cooperation and Assistance

Geneva, 23 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 from Austria and Chile, for their work on this section of the Dubrovnik Action Plan.

As a provider of international cooperation and assistance, as well as a facilitator of assistance, the United Nations stresses the importance of this agenda item, which applies to the whole spectrum of obligations under the CCM.

With regards to this section on International Cooperation and Assistance in the draft Dubrovnik Action Plan, the terms “expert organization” and “partners engaged in cooperation and assistance” are used. This approach is not replicated in other sections. We suggest that the United Nations be mentioned specifically by name, as its particular role in international assistance and cooperation is recognized, and is acknowledged in Article 6 of the CCM.

Once again, the United Nations encourages all States Parties and other relevant actors to ensure mine action funding is predictable and sustainable. The United Nations supports many of the cluster munitions affected countries in their efforts to address the threats posed by and the consequences of cluster munitions contamination. In many circumstances, it exercises a pivotal role in connecting countries in need and potential donors as well as facilitating the development of important partnerships. The United Nations aims at enhancing this role.

I would like to remind distinguished delegates of the “Mission Statement” of the United Nations with regard to mine action, as most recently reflected in “The Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2013-2018.”

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 works with affected States to reduce the threat and impact of mines and ERW, including cluster munitions, on peace and security, humanitarian relief, human rights, and socio-economic development. It does so in partnership with civil society, the private sector, international and regional arrangements, and donors with an aim to secure levels of prevention and protection for individuals and communities, at which point UN mine action assistance is no longer requested.”

The United Nations acknowledges that some of the cluster munitions affected States Parties face various constraints in implementing the CCM, not least of them the financial. However, they also have the right to seek and receive assistance, as stated in paragraph 1 of Article 6. This paragraph is cited less frequently than the second paragraph, referring to the obligations of States Parties in a position to provide technical, material and financial assistance, but it is not less important.

Thank you.