



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

First Review Conference of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions

High Level Segment

Statement on General Exchange of Views

Dubrovnik, 7-8 September 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; and you will notice among us here in Dubrovnik strong delegations from the Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS).

Mr. President, with your permission, allow me to break with protocol, and express the United Nations gratitude to the four survivors who just addressed the Conference with poignant and moving messages. I should like to recognize Mirsad Tokic from Croatia; Luz Dari Landazury from Colombia; Nicolas Marzolino from Italy; and Margaret Arach Orech from Uganda; and I kindly ask distinguished delegates to applaud them again.

From the outset, the United Nations wishes to congratulate your Excellency, Mr. Zoran Milanović, Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia, on your election as President of the First Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). The United Nations takes this opportunity to also acknowledge and congratulate the Croatian Presidency for the excellent preparatory work leading to this Conference and, in particular, the key draft outcome documents such as the draft Dubrovnik Declaration and the draft Dubrovnik Action Plan.

We also take this opportunity to congratulate Ms. Sheila Mweemba, once more, on her appointment as Director of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) for the CCM. At the same time, we commend our colleagues of UNDP and ODA respectively for their operational support to the interim ISU and the CCM. The United Nations wishes Ms. Mweemba success during her tenure on this important endeavor and also offers its full support to her and the ISU.

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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As a usual practice in similar international meetings, the United Nations will be delivering statements on behalf of the IACG-MA during the course of this Conference. Considerable focus will be given to the different and important thematic discussions that can guide the international community in the years to come.

In this first collective statement, we would like to strongly highlight the United Nations remarks on the continued use of cluster munitions in some parts of the world. This is an issue of great concern for humanity globally, and more specifically, for the affected civilian populations.

It is with great concern that we have learned that in addition to previous reports, recent and repeated use of cluster munitions have been recounted in the Syrian Arab Republic. Furthermore, there are confirmed reports of the use of cluster munitions in Sudan and Ukraine, and unconfirmed reports of the use of these weapons in Libya and Yemen. These five States are not parties to the Convention.

In Sudan, evidence was collected of two air-delivered cluster bombs near Kirigiya a village in Northern Darfur. These were disposed safely by the United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), as reported in the May 2015 Secretary-General's report on UNAMID. In his report² 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."

In the case of Ukraine, the Secretary-General, in his latest report on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, noted that the conflict in Ukraine has been characterized by widespread use of explosive weapons, including cluster munitions, in populated areas.³

It is recalled that the President of the 5MSP said in his summary statement last year that States present in San José shared the assessment of the humanitarian impact caused by cluster munitions and the need to react when fear is posed and the protection of civilians is threatened by the use of cluster munitions.⁴

The United Nations strongly condemns the use, development, production and transfer of cluster munitions and is deeply concerned by their horrifying humanitarian consequences, especially when used in populated areas. Recent research undertaken by United Nations mine action programmes has confirmed the deadly impact of these explosive hazards and their disproportionate negative effect on civilians,⁵ particularly on children and women, who

² S/2015/378

³ Report of the Secretary-General on the protection of civilians in armed conflict (S/2015/453).

⁴ The 5MSP in its final report (CCM/MSP/2014/6) welcomed the initiative of the President to submit a President's summary of the Meeting.

⁵ Data and analysis from the Mechanism for Monitoring and Evaluation for "The Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2013-2018."



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represent half or more of the affected population in emergencies and are disproportionately affected by their impact.⁶

The United Nations urges all Member States, in particular those bound by the CCM, to raise their advocacy efforts and effectively put an end to this harm.

Thank you.

⁶ New data shows that one billion girls and boys lived in areas that were affected by armed conflict in 2013 and 2014 (Stevens, D. 2014 *If Not Now, When? Ending Violence Against the World's Children*. New York: NYU).