



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

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

Statement on Universalization

Dubrovnik, 9 September 2015

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

Madam 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 partnerships between States Parties, the United Nations and other international organizations, the ICRC and other members of civil society consortium have contributed to promoting the universalization of the CCM and the provisions it has established. Remarkably, several States have joined the CCM since the Fifth Meeting of States Parties in San Jose, Costa Rica. The United Nations welcomes Belize, Canada, Guinea, Guyana, Iceland, Paraguay, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Slovakia, South Africa and the State of Palestine as new States Parties to the CCM. The United Nations also acknowledges the collective 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 twenty-four signatory States that have yet to ratify the CCM, including half of all affected countries.² The United Nations encourages them to do so as a matter of urgency and remains committed to assist in relevant advocacy efforts towards depositing their instruments of ratification.

The United Nations will take every opportunity to encourage accession to the CCM and calls upon all stakeholders to do the same. The Kampala Workshop held in May 2015, dedicated to the universalization of the CCM in Africa,³ and more recently, the July 2015 regional advocacy videoconference co-organized with, *inter alia*, Costa Rica and Trinidad and Tobago, are good examples of fora where the United Nations had the opportunity to further discuss challenges and progress for national accession to the CCM.

In addition to other obligations in the text, the universalization of the Convention will ultimately guarantee the future protection of civilian populations and individual civilians,

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

³<http://www.clusterconvention.org/meetings/regional-meetings/workshop-dedicated-to-universalization-of-the-ccm-in-africa-north-africa-and-middle-east/workshop-univ-africa/>



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their rights and livelihoods from the unacceptable harm and consequences caused by cluster munitions, both at the time of use and long after conflicts have ended.

To move our universalization efforts further, and in support of the actions on universalization of the draft Dubrovnik Action Plan, States Parties may wish to enhance the importance of partnership building and monitoring of progress, as further means to reinforce the stigmatization of cluster munitions.

Madam President,

Lastly, the use of cluster munitions represents one of the biggest challenges to the universalization of the CCM. With reference to the United Nations IACG-MA statement delivered during the general exchange views, the international community should act together to discourage any new use of cluster munitions and firmly condemn any instance of new use.

Thank you.