



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

Sixth Meeting of States Parties to the **Convention on Cluster Munitions**

(5 – 7 September 2016)

Statement on Universalization

Geneva, 5 September 2016

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

Mr. President,^{1 2}

The following statement is delivered on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA), comprising the United Nations entities³ involved in mine action.

The Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) has witnessed the accession of 100 States Parties. The United Nations congratulates the States Parties that have recently joined: Colombia, Cuba, Mauritius, Palau and Somalia. The United Nations also welcomes the announcement by Madagascar that it will deposit the instruments of ratification in the following weeks. Nevertheless, additional and strengthened efforts are required to reach the goal of universalization. On 24 June 2016, the Secretary-General of the United Nations sent letters encouraging states that have not ratified or acceded to the CCM to consider joining it, without delay.

A particular challenge for universalization is the continued use of cluster munitions in current armed conflicts. The United Nations remains deeply alarmed that despite the recognized evidence of the horrific humanitarian and socio-economic impact of cluster munitions, this method of warfare is still being employed.

In his last report on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, the Secretary-General of the United Nations expressed particular concern about the disregard of international humanitarian and human rights law by States and non-States parties in the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. Accordingly, he referenced “reports of the use of cluster munitions in both [the Syrian Arab Republic] and Yemen.”

¹ Ambassador Henk Cor van der Kwast, Ambassador at large, Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the Conference on Disarmament

² Coordinators of the Working Group on Universalization: Ecuador and Zambia

³ 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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Therefore, the United Nations strongly condemns the use, development, production and transfer of cluster munitions, due to the unacceptable and indiscriminate impact on civilians at the time of use, as well as long after the end of the conflict.

Mr. President,

The United Nations also fully supports the initiative led by the Kingdom of the Netherlands, at the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) to pledge for the condemnation of any use of cluster munitions.

Efforts by the United Nations, whether directly or indirectly, have borne fruit towards the CCM. Notably, the United Nations supports mine action in three of the ten states that acceded to the Convention in 2015 (being Colombia, Somalia and the State of Palestine). Nearly 60 per cent of affected countries and territories (25) with a United Nations mine action presence are now States Parties, compared to a general 49 per cent among all affected countries territories, depicting the intrinsic benefits of the efforts of the United Nations.

The United Nations also welcomes initiatives such as the recent Africa Region Workshop, held 4 – 5 August 2016, that brought together some 17 countries and which adopted the Addis Ababa Commitment Paper on the Universalization and Implementation of the Convention.

Thank you.