



# United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

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

(4 – 6 September 2017)

## Statement on Transparency Measures

Geneva, 4 September 2017

Mr. President,<sup>1 2</sup>

The following statement is delivered on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA) comprising the United Nations entities<sup>3</sup> involved in mine action.

The United Nations thanks Costa Rica for its efforts and leadership on Transparency Measures and welcomes the Committee's report. The United Nations notes with concern that the commitment of States Parties to their reporting remains one of the challenges faced by the Convention.

The provision of Article 7 is not only legally binding, but also provides a way for States Parties to share their progress and to communicate the challenges they are facing in implementing key articles of the Convention, and the relevant actions laid out by the Dubrovnik Action Plan.

With as few as 50 per cent of States Parties complying with their article 7 obligation, the level of reporting needs to be improved. In its last Resolution on the Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions<sup>4</sup>, the General Assembly urged all States Parties to the Convention to provide complete and timely information as required under Article 7, and thus promote transparency and compliance.

Moreover, out of the 100 States Parties, 19 are yet to submit their initial report. The United Nations calls on all States Parties that have not yet submitted their initial report to do so without delay.

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<sup>1</sup> Ambassador Michael Biontino, Permanent Representative of Germany to the Conference on Disarmament

<sup>2</sup> Coordinator on Reporting is Costa Rica

<sup>3</sup> 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).

<sup>4</sup> A/RES/71/45; Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions; 9 December 2016



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Providing timely and accurate information on successful practices and obstacles, both technical and financial, in the implementation of the Convention, builds confidence among States Parties and donors, and further encourages international cooperation under Article 6. Quality reporting also provides an understanding of the assistance needs of States Parties, and a basis for effective and tailored mine action programming towards the smooth implementation of Articles 3 and 4, with regards to stockpile destruction and clearance obligations. In Afghanistan, for example, UNMAS continues to support the national authority to submit timely, updated and quality reports. These national reports, which clearly outline the efforts, challenges and needs in the implementation of the Convention, have contributed to building donors' confidence in the Government's commitment to their international obligations. Indeed, donors recently pledged support for a cluster munition clearance project that will support the fulfilment of Article 4 of the Convention.

The United Nations commends the States Parties that have complied with their reporting obligations. The United Nations is committed to doing its utmost to assist States Parties facing challenges in the development of their initial report, and in the timely submission of their annual reports as required by the Article 7 of the Convention.

Thank you.