



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

Meeting of Experts on **Protocol V** to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons

Statement on Cooperation and Assistance

Geneva, 7 April 2016

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

Madam Coordinator,

The following statement is delivered on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA), comprising United Nations¹ entities involved in mine action.

Firstly, the United Nations should like to congratulate the Kingdom of Bahrain as the 122nd State Party to join the CCW, and in particular its Protocol V.

The United Nations wishes to take this opportunity to recall that the last General Assembly resolution on Assistance in Mine Action² was adopted last December. This resolution provides a framework for United Nations assistance as mine action continues to evolve.

As a means to improve and enhance the capacity of the United Nations in assisting mine and ERW affected countries, it has developed the Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism for its Mine Action Strategy 2013-2018.

With regard to cooperation, the United Nations encourages High Contracting Parties to continue South-South, regional and sub-regional cooperation.

For instance, by facilitating exchanges of experiences and lessons learned between national mine action authorities, UNMAS provides an opportunity for a long-term and sustainable response to explosive hazards. In November 2015, high-level officials from the Colombian national authority visited the *United Nations Mine Action Center for Afghanistan* (UNMACA) in Kabul, where they shared lessons learned and discussed strategic planning processes and day-to-day operational management.

States contaminated by ERW need also to develop or strengthen their risk education programmes. For example, with UNICEF support, almost three million children in eighteen

¹ The Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) / United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) (Chair), UN Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN Development Programme (UNDP), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) (Observer status), and the World Bank (Observer status).

²A/RES/70/80.



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countries were reached in 2015 through ERW/mine risk education activities, including in countries affected by ongoing conflicts such as Libya, Mali, Syria, Ukraine and Yemen. Also, recently, UNICEF – focusing on the Lake Chad Basin Region encompassing Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria – provided support by addressing new patterns of harm from ERW contamination.

Madam Coordinator, to conclude:

The United Nations calls on High Contracting Parties, in a position to do so, to provide reliable, predictable, timely and, when possible, multi-annual contributions for mine action, including for rapid response in humanitarian emergencies, through different funds.

Thank you.