



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action
2014 Meeting of High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons

Meeting of High Contracting Parties: Statement under General Exchange of Views

Thursday, 13 November 2014

Delivered by Ms. Agnès Marcaillou, Director, United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

The following statement is delivered on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action¹ (IACG-MA), comprising 14 United Nations entities involved in mine action.

Mr. Chairperson,

On behalf of the IACG-MA, I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Chairperson of the 2014 Meeting of High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

The United Nations Strategy on Mine Action for 2013-2018 calls for the continued advocacy for compliance and implementation of mine action Conventions, including the CCW and its Protocols. Amended Protocol II on mines, booby-traps and other devices and Protocol V on explosive remnants of war, are two instruments of international humanitarian law at the root of our mine action-related work.

The debate surrounding the use of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS), has demonstrated that the CCW framework remains a relevant space to address contemporary issues of concern to States, international organizations and civil society.

In this important forum, the United Nations wishes to speak once again on the issue of anti-vehicle mines, under the agenda item on mines other than anti-personnel mines (MOTAPM). This issue remains unfinished business within the CCW framework.

¹ The Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) / United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), 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).

The United Nations maintains its position that High Contracting Parties should use the CCW framework to further explore ways to ensure that anti-vehicle mines no longer harm civilians, impede the delivery of humanitarian aid or obstruct social and economic development.

The United Nations encourages High Contracting Parties to comprehensively address the humanitarian impact of MOTAPMs under the framework of the CCW. The United Nations, and in particular UNMAS, is committed to providing High Contracting Parties, and others, with advisory and technical support, to move this agenda forward.

Mr. Chairperson,

As expressed in the message of the Secretary-General this morning, the United Nations remains concerned by the short and long-term impact of the use of conventional explosive weapons in populated areas. In addition, last year, the Secretary-General called upon parties to conflicts to “refrain from the use in populated areas of explosive weapons with wide-area effects.”² In some situations, the adoption of policy and practice limiting such use, has strengthened the protection of civilians. Recognizing this development, the United Nations encourages High Contracting Parties to make available relevant information pertaining to such practice and policy, as requested by the Secretary-General in a note verbale dated 2 October.

Finally, the United Nations would like to once again congratulate Iraq for joining the CCW, and encourages all other non-High Contracting Parties to do the same.

Thank you.

² Report of the Secretary-General on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, (S/2013/689), http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2013/689, 16/18.