



**Cluster Munition Coalition statement on Cooperation and Assistance
Convention on Cluster Munitions Intersessional Meeting**

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Cooperation and assistance obligations under Article 6 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions are an essential mechanism to make sure the Convention's objectives are met in the near future. In particular, while victim assistance obligations will require a long-term commitment, CMC has often stated that in most countries, it is possible to complete clearance and stockpile destruction in a few years. But to achieve these goals, it is necessary both to make sure countries which need assistance clearly assess their needs and commit national resources to the cluster munition problem, and for donor states to allocate sufficient dedicated resources for the CCM.

Article 6 of the CCM states that "each State Party that seeks and receives assistance shall take all appropriate measures in order to facilitate the timely and effective implementation of this Convention". We are pleased to see that many countries have reported on their needs yesterday and today. But we would like to see all States Parties which need assistance either for clearance, victim assistance or stockpile destruction, clearly presenting their needs and priorities through realistic planning, both during these meetings and in annual Article 7 reports.

Those countries should also provide information on how they have used the assistance they received, especially on the results they have achieved. Such information would not only help them with future requests, but would also contribute to the collective effort to increase cost-effectiveness and efficiency in access to, and use of, available resources.

We also encourage signatory countries to report on their needs for assistance, as implementation of victim assistance, stockpile destruction and clearance need to start as early as possible. We stress the necessity for states which are seeking assistance to assert national ownership by dedicating national resources and capacities to the achievement of their obligations – and their efforts should be shared with the international community.

Article 6 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions also states that States Parties "in a position to do so" must provide technical, material, and financial assistance to implement the Convention's obligations. Therefore, in addition to what donor states may already be spending on mine action or related activities, donors now have *additional* obligations to support the implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Of course funding for cluster munition-specific activities cannot always be earmarked as such, especially for victim assistance, which will be carried out for broader groups of victims and persons with disabilities, and for clearance, which is destined for all types of ERW contamination. But we do expect to see countries contaminated by cluster munitions receive adequate funding to cover their new clearance and victim assistance obligations under the CCM, and in particular in those States Parties that have problems caused mainly by cluster munitions. In addition, a significant number of States Parties and signatories that have cluster munitions stockpiles will need international cooperation and assistance.

Therefore, we welcome the fact that global mine action funding increased in 2010 (global 2011 figures are not yet available). On the other hand, we regret decreased mine action funding in 2010 by some States Parties, like the United Kingdom or Denmark, or very low funding by countries like Italy or France. In addition, in 2010, donors dedicated little funding to support stockpile destruction in other countries.

Finally, we believe that ALL signatories and States Parties can actively contribute to international cooperation and assistance. As presented earlier by Croatia, exchanging experiences, best practices and lessons learned, in particular in a South-South cooperation model, may be extremely beneficial for countries in need of assistance. For example, achieving stockpile destruction is not only a question of financial assistance— technical assistance and expertise support can be key to the speedy completion of this obligation for many countries. On victim assistance as well, sharing experiences among affected countries can contribute to a better response to the needs of victims.

In closing, we believe that a virtuous circle can be created on international cooperation: the more States Parties requiring assistance clearly share their needs and the impact of support received, the more it will give guidance to donor states to provide appropriate support, which will in turn encourage affected or stockpiling states that have not yet joined the Convention to do so.