

STATEMENT BY SOUTH AFRICA DURING THE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS OF THE CMM

COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE

Madam Coordinator

At the outset please allow me to commend Mexico and Spain for the excellent manner in which you have coordinated the work of this session on cooperation and assistance. Please be assured of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

South Africa views International Cooperation and Assistance as one of the central pillars in our implementation efforts particularly on issues such as Victim Assistance, Clearance and risk education, Capacity Building, Stockpile Destruction and Universalisation. As we have heard from the updates, a number of States Parties particularly those that are highly affected, face challenges regarding the implementation of these key provisions of the Convention.

Accordingly, States should work together internationally, regionally and national levels to fulfil obligations of the Convention. My delegation recognises the fact that there are co-operating partners who have done much work in this field. In this regard, we wish to emphasise that international cooperation and assistance is not exclusively about the donors and recipients. All States can work together as equal partners in promoting south-south, north-north, north-south and triangular cooperation. These kinds of cooperation can be done through exchange of data, good practices, expertise, equipment, embarking on joint projects and so on. Any assistance provided needs to be practical, measurable and have an impact on the ground.

We would like to underscore the importance of national ownership to ensure success and sustainability of the projects. At national level such partnerships can include governments, civil society, businesses and affected communities. These partnerships are critical to ensure proper planning and execution of mandates; and effective and efficient use of allocated resources.

Workshops and seminars are very important as they create awareness and can contribute to capacity building and we wish to emphasise that these should be complemented by adequate follow-up mechanisms. In the case of South Africa, like many other developing States we have and will continue to provide our neighbouring countries with international co-operation and assistance especially in the field of capacity development and training.

Finally Mr coordinator South Africa will continue to work with others in addressing the humanitarian problems caused by cluster munitions.

I thank you