

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to thank and congratulate Mexico and Spain for the excellent work leadership they have provided for the cooperation and assistance working group of the CCM.

Lebanon is of the view that international cooperation and assistance is one of the most important milestones should all of the obligations under the Convention be fulfilled. In the past decades, we have been receiving valuable supports and cooperation from donor countries, international organizations and INGOs in total of over 12 million US dollars for 2011 and 10 million US dollars for 2012. In this regard I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to donor countries, namely: Australia, Belgium, China, Cyprus, France, Germany, Iran, Italy, Japan, Norway, United Kingdom, and United States of America. We also warmly welcome the European Union's our main contributor and partner for its intention to increase its contribution to the Mine Action Sector in the coming years.

For our part, the Government has annually contributed in kind contribution to the UXO sector of around 8.7 million USD.

The Lebanon National Mine Action Program is fostering its engagement with the Lebanese private sector. In addition to its very successful partnership with BLOM Bank, it is now embarking in a new one with Jamal Trust Bank.

The LMAC has been also actively engaged in international meetings and forums making effort to meet its CCM treaty obligations. The LMAC extended its expert knowledge to assist other affected states in their effort to enhance their own programs through exchange visits and country training. In in 2011 and 2012, it has regionally trained delegates from the MENA region on IMSMA New Generation, GIS, Technical Surveys, Mine Risk Education, Quality Control, and Operations. It has also trained teams from Brazil, Sudan and Iraq on Quality Control.

To formalize its capacity building initiatives on the local and international levels, LMAC will establish a school, supported by the French Government. Moreover, it is proposing to act as a Focal Point for Arabic-speaking countries who can provide easy access to:

- Nearby facilities
- Technical support provided in the mother-tongue of the Arab-speaking countries
- Training provided in the mother-tongue of the Arab countries

Furthermore, to facilitate cooperation and experience sharing in the MENA region, GICHD and LMAC will hold a five-day regional information management workshop for IMSMA users during September 2012 in Lebanon.

International valued financial and in kind assistance in the form of human capital, equipment, research and development provided by the international community have enabled Lebanon to address its landmine and cluster munitions' problem from emergency to development phase with reasonable success. They also helped building a human capacity

and operating platform that enables LMAC program to meet its future challenges.

Thank you