

To the Permanent Representatives of
the States Parties to the
Convention on Cluster Munitions,
Geneva

Geneva, April 3, 2013

Dear Excellency,

We are pleased to make reference to the Third Meeting of States Parties of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), held in Oslo last September, where Mexico and Sweden were appointed as co-chairs of the Working Group on Cooperation and Assistance. Both our Governments are grateful for the trust deposited in our delegations to support the CCM in the time until the next Meeting of States Parties.

At this year's Intersessional Meeting of the CCM, which takes place in Geneva on **April 15-18, 2013**, States Parties will have an opportunity to discuss the possibilities to further develop the area of Cooperation and Assistance. Some progress has been made in this context, but further challenges remain, e.g. identifying the extent of problems caused by cluster munitions in some states and the development of comprehensive plans in this regard and ensuring that current levels of assistance given will be able to meet the long-term needs of affected States.

Given the fact that only 10% of total recorded international cluster munitions-related funding in 2011 went toward victim assistance and stockpile destruction, these areas will receive special attention during the discussions at the Intersessional Meeting.

On **Monday, April 15** the meeting will begin with a **technical workshop** with the following objectives:

- To gain a better understanding of the policies, approaches and best practices of donors towards the future funding of stockpile destruction and victim assistance in a long term perspective.
- To identify additional channels (other than traditional mine action funding channels) available and being utilized to support victim assistance, including triangular and south-south cooperation.
- To gain a better understanding on how donor governments could ensure that they approach victim assistance from a broad and a long term perspective (i.e., medical care through to economic inclusion and social reintegration).

During the remainder of the **Intersessional Meeting** States Parties are invited to exchange views on the following points:

- Only a relatively small number of countries have officially requested assistance. States could make their needs more clearly known.
- What does cooperation entail? Cooperation should not only consist of financial resources from donors. It includes sharing skills, expertise, experiences, lessons learned and technical exchanges. States could outline what has been done in this regard, and put forward ideas for future projects.

We invite States Parties to prepare for discussions on these and other pertinent topics and hope that the outcome of the Intersessional Meeting will be able to further the objectives of the CCM within Cooperation and Assistance.

For further information do not hesitate to contact **Ms. Paola Ramírez** at the Permanent Mission of Mexico in Geneva (sramirezv@sre.gob.mx) and/or **Mr. Björn Cappelin** (bjorn.cappelin@gov.se) at the Permanent Mission of Sweden in Geneva.

We avail ourselves of this opportunity to reiterate to your Excellency the assurances of our highest consideration.



Juan José GOMEZ CAMACHO

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Mexico to
the United Nations and other International
Organizations in Geneva



Jan KNUTSSON

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Sweden to
the United Nations and other International
Organizations in Geneva