

Check against delivery

Eighth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, 3-5 September 2018

Statement given under Clearance and destruction of cluster munition remnants and risk reduction education (item 7 (c)).

Mr. President,

This year we are celebrating the ten year anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. During this period nine states parties and one signatory state have rid themselves of cluster munitions contamination. Twenty-seven states and three other areas are still contaminated with cluster munition remnants.

The first of the CCM Article 4 clearance deadlines are only two years away. Of the twelve affected states parties, only one (Croatia) is firmly on track to meeting its treaty deadline. We know that four countries have massive or heavy contamination: Lao PDR, Vietnam, Cambodia and Iraq. We acknowledge that the contamination problem may take a long time address in these countries.

But we are reminded by the latest edition of the Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants report that in many affected countries, **contamination is limited** and the problem could be managed within a relatively short time frame.

This report produced by Mine Action Review is endorsed by the three largest humanitarian demining organizations, and will be presented at a lunchtime side event tomorrow.

We would therefore like to see many more countries join the list of those that are on track to meeting their deadlines. As we celebrate what has been achieved in the first ten years, we need to acknowledge that we could do better. We should consider carefully how CCM Article 4 extension requests can be avoided.

One problem is that in many of the countries with low or moderate levels of contamination, the extent of the problem is **uncertain**. It is difficult to address any problem if you don't know how big it is. In

order to ensure progress in cluster munition survey and clearance, it is therefore essential to know the **extent of contamination**. Yet, only four countries have as of yet established baselines of the extent of their CMR contamination. These are Afghanistan, Croatia, Germany and Montenegro, who deserve credit for this effort. We appeal to all countries that are affected, or suspect that they are affected, to make this a national priority. We would like to commend Lao PDR for beginning this year a national baseline survey to define the extent of their problem.

Norway has always believed in an open dialogue between affected countries, donors and operators at individual country level to address challenges in survey and clearance. This dialogue should take place both at the **policy** level and, just as importantly, at the **technical** level. The “country coalition” concept introduced during Germany’s presidency of this Convention embodies such an approach. We would like to commend Lebanon for having embraced this approach in practice over the past year and for the positive impact it is having on program performance. We will be able to learn more about this experience during a side event on Wednesday.

It is our view that we should use the opportunity at **every** meeting of states parties to this Convention to include, in the margins, country-focused discussions among all relevant stakeholders. This could also provide some new energy into our deliberations.

Mr President,

Norway remains committed to fulfilling its Article 6 obligation to assist in the implementation of the Convention. We are currently funding humanitarian mine action in 20 countries in direct partnership with global humanitarian NGOs such as Norwegian People’s Aid, Halo Trust and Mines Advisory Group. We support victim assistance projects in Lao PDR and Afghanistan, and in many more countries through unearmarked funding for the ICRC Mine Action Appeal. We will continue to have a strong focus on implementation of this convention and capacity building at country level.

Thank you.