

**Statement on International Cooperation and Assistance**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions**  
**6 September 2016**



Thank you Mr Chair.

The CMC is pleased by the United States' President's announcement today in Lao PDR of a significant increase in US funding for clearing the deadly legacy of decades-old cluster bombs and for assisting the victims. We congratulate Lao PDR for building this important partnership. Funding of ninety (90) million dollars over three years accompanied with technical assistance is a critical contribution to resolve contamination in that country, and the type of partnership needed in more countries.

While money is important, cooperation and assistance is not just about financial resources from traditional donors. The successful implementation of the Convention requires all States Parties to assist in whatever way they can, whether that is with money, technical assistance or diplomatic engagement. There is little to no cost associated with speaking out for the universalization of the convention, or for the condemnation of use, and these are both ways to lower the future costs of clearance and to limit casualties through prevention. The Cluster Munition Coalition believes that all states are in a position to provide cooperation and assistance, and to serve as effective partners in the promotion of a world free of cluster munitions. *You all have the power to do so.*

In addressing other areas of the convention, such as clearance, stockpile destruction or victim assistance, the Dubrovnik Action Plan calls on states to communicate their challenges and make their needs known. It also calls on states to respond constructively to these requests for assistance. Article 7 transparency reports, in which the majority of affected states made their needs known in their most recent reports, serve as a useful tool in promoting this dialogue. Several donor states have also made use of their annual transparency reports to indicate areas where they have provided assistance. Some States have used reporting to demonstrate national ownership by enumerating national resources allocated for the implementation of the convention.

The Dubrovnik Action Plan sets concrete targets that will result from effective cooperation and assistance - such as a decrease in the number of new victims and an increase in land released for productive purposes. Achieving these results requires new commitments of funding and technical assistance. For example, ensuring that victims can participate in all aspects of life on an equal basis with others requires increased international support. Investing in effective clearance efforts prevents future casualties and allows for economic growth. Strong international partnerships that contribute to these results also demonstrate the success of this collaborative convention and contribute to universalization efforts by showing states not party the benefits of coming on board.

We applaud those States Parties that are dedicating human and financial resources to end the unacceptable harm caused by cluster munitions. And we know that much more needs to be done. Please, consider what more you can do for the shared success of this convention.

Thank you.