

Closing statement CCM - Coordinators on Clearance and Risk Reduction Education

d.d. 4 September 2017

Thank you for your statements under this agenda item. On behalf of my colleague from Norway, I would like to thank you for all the work you have undertaken to implement Article 4 of the Convention on clearance and destruction of cluster munition remnants and risk reduction education. We would also like to commend all those states parties that have reported on Article 4 implementation in their Article 7 reports.

On the basis of the statements just made, we would like to note the following:

- We would like to congratulate Mozambique again for completing their clearance obligation well (!) ahead of its treaty deadline. The word used by the ambassador 'slightly' we believe is too much modesty for such an important achievement. It is also good to hear that there has been no new findings of cluster munition remnants.
- We appreciate all the work BiH have done on fulfilling their Art. 4 obligations. A lot of work has been done with a view to its reconfirmed 2021 deadline, which includes the important tool of technical survey.
- We thank Croatia for its transparency in terms of reporting and its statement. We would like to mention in particular the work being done on mine risk education. A very important part of our obligations to prevent casualties. We are pleased to hear that Croatia intends to complete your Art. 4 obligations by 2018, well ahead of its treaty deadline.
- WORKSHOP in November.
- We would like to thank Iraq for outlining its challenges under Art. 4 with a view of the current conflicts. We commend the efforts you have undertaken so far, also in the field of awareness raising, and we – and the wider CCM community – stand ready to further support you with the

tasks ahead. We have heard your call for the need of increased international assistance.

- We would like to thank Laos to put forward its candidature to serve as Clearance and Risk Reduction Education Coordinator. We appreciate the work you have done on non-technical and technical surveys with a view to a national baseline and also on improving the Information Management System. With a view of reducing the number of victims, we took note with interest of your plans on risk education.
- We would like to commend Lebanon for its work on awareness raising. We note your comment on the difficulties you experience in reaching the 2021 deadline. We would like to encourage you – together with the international community – to continue your efforts so the deadline set can be met. As we have envisaged to do with the workshop last year, we continue to stand ready to support you.
- We thank Switzerland and Norway's comments on the importance of reporting and on meeting the other obligations under the Convention.
- We would further like to thank the Cluster Munition Coalition and MAG for all their work to continue pushing for this important issue and keep holding a mirror in front of us, states, and encouraging us to fulfil the obligations we committed to.

Thank you again for all your efforts under Art. 4. We would further like to underline the importance of continuing a close dialogue with countries that have Article 4 obligations and that may have difficulty in reaching their deadlines, especially as the first 2020-deadlines are approaching. Therefore, we call on those to contact us so we can assist as Coordinators on Clearance and Risk Reduction Education and facilitate support from the entire CCM-community.

Lastly, I would like to thank my colleagues from Norway for their tireless efforts as Coordinators on Clearance and Risk Reduction Education. They showed leadership in pushing this issue forward, including by trying new approaches, such as the Lebanon workshop. Thank you very much for the excellent cooperation. The Netherlands is indeed happy to continue our role as Coordinator in our second year together with the new states party to be elected in a few days as Coordinator for Clearance and Risk Reduction Education.