



Intervention of the Delegation of Lebanon on Cooperation and Assistance

CCM Meeting

Geneva, September 2018

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Lebanese delegation I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the government of Nicaragua for their relentless coordination efforts.

As set out in Article 6 of the CCM, “each State Party has the right to seek and receive assistance” in fulfilling its obligations under the Convention. In this regards, Lebanon Mine Action Center since its establishment has been doing its utmost to ensure full and efficient implementation of the Convention in terms of clearance of contaminated areas, care and rehabilitation for victims, and risk education.

The Lebanon Mine Action Center, strongly insists on taking part in all activities, meetings, forums and workshops that will contribute to the evolution of the Humanitarian Mine Action Program especially in the field of the cluster munitions' removal.

LMAC considers that it as a core obligation to cooperate with other states to lessen the impact of cluster munitions through all means available. LMAC always participate in international platforms and workshops that help us build our capacities further and enable us to always keep our knowledge, structures, and operations updated.

To ensure that we are able to maintain high level cooperation with all countries based on international standards, Lebanon already updated its National Mine Action Standards. We also added new modules that were not present in our NMAS version 1 as well as relevant modules that are not present in the IMAS such as MVA. We are willing to share our experience in this domain with any interested country.

On another hand, we also organize and host our partners of platforms and workshops. Lebanon organizes its annual International Support Group meeting for all donors, ambassadors, and civil society organizations concerned with mine action in Lebanon to collaborate and consolidate efforts.

Moreover, and as planned in 2017 the LMAC took charge the management of the ARCP. During 2017 and in collaboration with the GICHD the LMAC conducted 2 workshops Strategic Planning for mine action programs in Egypt and Mine Risk Education in Khartoum-Sudan. In addition to those workshops LMAC organized the 6th annual conference for the national directors of the Arab programs. This conference held in Beirut – Lebanon with a high level of participation of Arab countries. Despite sincere efforts and indisputable willingness to invest our modest capabilities to this end, financial support will be critical to be able to launch the program up to the standards.

As part of the support to the Lebanon Mine Action Program, the Regional School for Humanitarian Demining in Lebanon (RSHDL) located in Hamana- Mount Lebanon is established to satisfy the need for training in the field of humanitarian operations in the Middle East, where many Arab countries have expressed their desire to benefit from HMA trainings. It is important to mention that many delegations visited the RSHDL to observe its operations. The year 2017 witnessed the official launching of the school and remarkable achievements in training as NTS and EOD1 and EOD2 in addition to workshop for Gender and Diversity for civilians and LAF members working in Mine Action Field.

In order to increase knowledge RSHDL officers attended training sessions in Denmark and Germany.

Ladies and gentlemen

Lebanon stood out as a country which has mastered the necessary know-how and is well capable of sharing and transferring its expertise in all mine-action related fields, including Quality Assurance, Operations, Information Management, Mine Risk Education and Mine Victim Assistance. The LMAC served as an exemplary Mine Action center demonstrating how it has progressed with humanitarian demining and how it is serving as the national focal point for mine action.

Finally, on behalf of the Lebanese delegation, I would like to express my most heartfelt gratitude for all the cooperation and assistance already provided by donors EU, WRA, Norway, Japan Netherlands, UK, Sweden and France and I look forward to working with you all in the future to ensure we reach our target of a Lebanon free from cluster munitions within the timeframe set out.

Thank you for your attention