

Statement on Cooperation and Assistance
9th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions
2-4 September 2019



Thank you, Mr. President.

With the second Review Conference due to take place next year, this meeting of States Parties provides a suitable opportunity to take stock of the status of implementation of the convention and its Dubrovnik Action Plan so far, and to ask ourselves the right questions with regards to cooperation and assistance. Namely: what resources are needed to achieve our goals? How to strengthen partnerships at all levels? Are we using available resources in a way that is well-coordinated, sustainable, targeted, and efficient?

As we step up our collective effort to achieve the rapid implementation of the convention, promoting cooperation and assistance and improving its effectiveness is key. To be successful in doing so, efforts must be pursued equally by both, states requesting cooperation and assistance and those that are delivering it. Effective cooperation is about making sure that all stakeholders coordinate their efforts and provide the means to achieve concrete results on the ground. The focus lies on the *how* of cooperation and assistance.

Efficient cooperation and good programming depend on *reliable and up-to-date data*. This means that affected states must clearly and regularly communicate the nature and magnitude of the remaining challenge, the type of international assistance required, and the level of national resources available. And for donor states this means accurate reporting of efforts undertaken to support all pillars of mine action, including victim assistance through broader humanitarian and development efforts. This can be done during annual conferences such as today's, through bilateral and regional channels or meetings, or via Article 7 transparency reports. Perhaps during Intersessional meetings, if restored.

Collecting and understanding information is not enough in itself. The next step is to make sure it is *correctly used* to accurately inform decision-making for strategic and operational programming, to monitor and evaluate impact, to ensure sustainability and adaptability to changing circumstances. This requires systematic interaction between the donors and recipient states, increased coordination between all donors, and a greater emphasis on national ownership. It shall ensure that assistance is structured, delivered and used for the greatest possible impact.

The objectives of the Convention can only be reached if *all* parties work together, headed in the same direction. Let's continue to explore all avenues for targeted and improved cooperation and assistance. This way we can all ensure that any remaining needs for assistance are met.

Thank you.