



## **Statement of Montenegro**

### **Ninth Meeting of States Parties (9MSP) of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, Geneva, 2- 4 September 2019**

#### **Agenda item 9 (e)**

#### **International Cooperation and Assistance**

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to underline that the objectives of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and its humanitarian character oblige us all to work jointly towards their achievement.

Sometimes national commitment and efforts are not enough to complete the implementation of obligations of this Convention. Therefore, the international cooperation and assistance are an essential tool for allowing those countries with insufficient national capacities to complete their obligations, and it represents one of the key pillars of the Convention.

Montenegro, driven by its commitment to fulfilling its remaining obligations under Article 4, has recognized opportunities which the international cooperation under the „Country Coalitions“ concept could bring, and on the other side, we met with the understanding and generous support of our international partner.

The Montenegrin national authorities had very successful cooperation with Norwegian People Aid for several years. In 2012/2013 NPA included providing training and support, and also a detailed non-technical survey which provided a clear baseline and evidence base for the future interventions under Article 4. In 2018, the Ministry of Interior of Montenegro and Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) signed the Memorandum of Understanding on the Implementation of the Programme on Land Release of Areas Contaminated with Cluster Ammunition Remnants in Montenegro, which started in October last year and will last until 1 August 2020. This project was funded by the Government of Norway, in the amount of approximately 1.2 million Euros for clearance operations.

The cooperation with the NPA, characterized by the commitment, open approach, evidence-based requests and transparency on our side and constructive approach and understanding of our partner, resulted with a certain expectation that all clearance operation will be completed by the end of May 2020, before the deadline under Article 4.

Mr. President,

Our positive experience from the established international cooperation and received assistance witnesses the practical value of the concept of the country coalitions, which enables countries with a lack of national capacities to complete their obligation under the Convention and to meet with a very wide range of donors. The same motivated Montenegro to express its interest to serve as one of the Coordinators for International Cooperation and Assistance and to encourage and assist future successful projects of international cooperation.

To conclude, Montenegro remains strongly committed to further supporting all efforts towards universalization and strengthening the implementation of the Convention.

Thank you.