



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

Fifth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions

Statement on Cooperation and Assistance

Agenda item 10(g)

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Delivered by Ms. Abigail Hartley, Chief of Policy, Advocacy and Public Information, United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

The following statement is delivered on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action¹ (IACG-MA), comprising 14 United Nations entities involved in mine action.

Cooperation and assistance are essential pillars of the Convention. The fulfilment of State Parties obligations under Article 6 is indispensable to the effective implementation of the Treaty.

The importance of this issue was recalled in the last General Assembly resolution on Assistance in Mine Action (A/RES/68/72), which urged “all States, in particular those in a position to do so [...] to provide reliable, predictable, timely and where possible multi-annual contributions for mine action [...], including to the United Nations, for activities related to rapid response, victim assistance and mine risk education.”

Mr. President,

The United Nations would like to draw your attention to three issues in particular.

First, diligently measuring the impact of mine action, and clearly communicating achievements and challenges are vital to establishing strong and meaningful partnerships and fruitful cooperation. The United Nations has developed a monitoring and evaluation mechanism to assess progress of its Strategy on Mine Action 2013-2018. This requires strong “buy-in” and cooperation with national authorities, United Nations entities, and implementing partners.

¹ The Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) / United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), UN Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), UN Development Programme (UNDP), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) (Observer status), and the World Bank (Observer status).

UNMAS has pioneered the launch of the mechanism in its field programmes and will use data generated to measure the effectiveness of assistance and looks forward to reporting on outcomes.

UNDP, UNICEF and UNMAS are also working with affected states and other partners to strengthen their monitoring and evaluation frameworks to better assess program implementation, review outputs, and ensure lessons learned are applied.

Second, cooperation and assistance can be efficient only if needs are matched with resources. By presenting as comprehensive a picture as possible of the full range of mine action needs in affected countries and thematic issues related to mine action, the annual Portfolio of Mine Action Projects can play an important role.

Preparations for the 2015 edition of the Portfolio are currently underway and will feature a newly upgraded online system developed, hosted and coordinated at headquarters by UNMAS. UNDP, UNICEF, UNMAS, governments and other stakeholders coordinate at country level to ensure complete representation of all mine action needs. The Portfolio is an online system which allows continuous updates as progress is made. The United Nations encourages all stakeholders to contribute to the Portfolio, thereby, participating in consolidating priorities that best address national strategic plans. The launch of the 2015 edition of the Portfolio is scheduled for the end of the year.

Third, South-South exchanges of best practices, equipment, technology, skills, and experiences among States are paramount. The United Nations commends the special emphasis put by Chile on South-South exchanges during the 2014 Intersessional meetings. Making efficient use of resources also means making use of existing experiences and knowledge among mine action actors. The United Nations makes it a priority to promote and facilitate such exchanges.

In Lebanon UNDP supported Arabic Outreach Program activities, such as the translation of key terms in IMAS into Arabic. In addition UNDP provided technical and operational advice to Arabic speaking States through the Lebanese Mine Action Centre (LMAC), in cooperation with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD).

With UNDP's technical, advisory, logistics, and operational support, LMAC is becoming a regional leader in information management and mine action training. LMAC is currently working towards establishing a Regional School for Humanitarian Demining in Lebanon (RSHDL) which will serve the entire region. UNDP is supporting resource mobilization for the school as well as assisting in its strategic planning.

UNDP has also supported the LMAC in hosting a Quality Management workshop that was attended by delegates from Libya, Egypt, Yemen, Iraq, Jordan, Somalia, Mauritania, Western Sahara, and Sudan.

Together, UNDP and UNMAS support LMAC South-South cooperation with the Tajikistan Mine Action Centre. In 2013 a successful visit and presentation were made in Tajikistan by the LMAC and UNMAS representatives, and a reciprocal visit to Lebanon by

representatives from Tajikistan took place in 2014. UNMAS in Libya also facilitated the visit of representatives from the Libyan Mine Action Centre to the LMAC in February 2014 which included traveling to two cluster munitions clearance sites and a discussion on best practices related to transition, organizational structures as well as operational procedures.

Another request was received from Colombia who will visit Lebanon during the last quarter of 2014. UNDP and UNMAS will support this visit.

Finally, as noted in the San José Progress Report, the United Nations has responded to requests for assistance by States Parties on the full range of obligations under the Convention. The United Nations has also contributed to the formal and informal meetings of the Convention, adding its experiences and best practices to the body of knowledge and expertise critical to the full and timely compliance with the Convention. The United Nations will continue to do so.

The United Nations expresses its appreciation for the efforts and leadership of Sweden and Chile in moving forward this important provision of the Convention.

I thank you, Mr. President.