



Kingdom of the Netherlands

**Intervention by the Co-Coordinator for International Cooperation and Assistance – Netherlands and Montenegro –**

**At**

**Second Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions,**  
agenda item 8e , International Cooperation and Assistance  
26 November 2020

Mr President,

I am taking the floor on behalf of the co-coordinators for international cooperation and assistance, the Netherlands and Montenegro. In my presentation, I will provide a brief overview of the achievements of the past 5 years, the challenges identified and briefly touch upon our work this year and how this will hopefully contribute to the improved implementation of article 6 in the future.

The Dubrovnik Action Plan, in its action 5, emphasized to need of strengthening of partnerships at all levels, the clear and evidence based communication of challenges by States Parties requiring assistance, enhanced national ownership of CCM obligations and the use of existing tools for cost efficiency and effectiveness.

In 2017 and 2018 the co-coordinators held a number of informal meetings with affected, and donor states to help identify the key challenges and the priorities in requesting and providing assistance. Aim of these meeting was to provide a better understanding between both states requiring assistance and donor states, with a view of enhancing international cooperation and assistance efforts under the convention. Reports of those meetings are available on the website of the implementation support unit.

In parallel track, the Country Coalition concept was developed, which seeks to promote tailor-made partnerships and strategies to implement the Convention. Following the introduction by the Presidency of the 7<sup>th</sup> MSP, the coordinators for international cooperation and assistance have worked to promote Country Coalitions. To this end, a side event, a round table with one States Party and various bilateral consultations with interested States Parties have been held.

The set-up of Country Coalitions in Botswana and Montenegro have helped these States Parties to achieve their time bound obligations under the Convention, before their initial deadlines In similar vein, Lebanon, through its Mine Action Forum, has made great strides towards fulfilling its obligations.

Mr President,

Nonetheless, challenges remain in the field of international assistance and cooperation. As noted in the review document, there is scope to further enhance the role of partnerships and make States Parties, international

organizations, operators and other actors in the field better aware about the different opportunities for collaboration available to them.

In this context, there is a need to further improve the communication by affected States Parties of the challenges that they face in implementing provisions of the Convention and their needs for assistance. The Article 7 transparency reporting is not yet fully leveraged to communicate both needs of affected states and offers for support from donor States. This point could be taken up in a review of the art. 7 reporting forms.

Notwithstanding the progress made since the adoption of the Dubrovnik Action Plan, there remains clear scope to increase national ownership by States Parties in fulfilling their obligations under the Convention. Some key challenges identified by donor states to responding positively to requests for assistance are; lack of political commitment, absence of appropriate national ownership as well as absence of national legislation, adequate strategic framework or planning related to the implementation of the Convention.

Lastly, in view of limited resources available effective resource allocation remains key. Careful resource planning and the establishment of coordination frameworks, in this particular, the further development of the Country Coalitions concept could prove useful in this context. Therefore, the coordinators for international cooperation welcome the actions contained in the Lausanne Action Plan under the chapter for international cooperation and assistance seeks to address the challenges identified in a concrete and actionable manner.

Mr President,

In closing, allow me to briefly touch upon some aspects of our work this year. Building on the work of previous years, the promotion of the Country Coalitions continued to be one of the priorities of the co-coordinators. Having identified the need to better explain the concept of Country Coalition to States Parties of the Convention and to provide a reference tool, the co-coordinators have developed a brochure on Country Coalition. I am happy to announce that the brochure has been completed and will soon be made available on the website of the implementation support unit.

We strongly encourage all States Parties, those with time bound obligations under the Convention, as well as donor States, to read this brochure. While it is true that Country Coalitions are primarily aimed at helping States Parties

fulfilling their time bound obligations, donor States can play in indispensable role in setting up Country Coalition.

Allow me to take this opportunity to thank the colleagues of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, the Cluster Munitions Coalition, Norwegian People Aid, as well as the delegation of Norway for their valuable input and feedback during the development of this brochure.

Thank you Mr President