

**Cluster Munition Coalition Statement on International Cooperation and  
Assistance  
Convention on Cluster Munitions 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of States Parties**



**Oslo, 14 September 2012**

Thank you Mr. President.

My name is Lynn Bradach. I am a cluster munition victim from the United States and Ban Advocate. My son, Corporal Travis Bradach-Nall, a US marine, was killed in Iraq when clearing US cluster munitions.

Like all cluster munition victims, I have a special interest in seeing the Convention on Cluster Munitions reach universal membership and full implementation in the shortest possible timeframe. Each cluster munition destroyed, each square meter of land cleared, each victim supported takes us closer to a world where cluster munitions no longer pose a threat, and their terrible legacy is diminished. We've been working long and hard to reach these goals, and we are happy to see how close we are getting.

Indeed, this week we have heard a lot about progress on implementation, with clear and impressive results in many areas. Obviously there is a link between such progress and states' efforts to provide international cooperation and assistance, even if it is hard to measure how much funding and support goes to the direct implementation of the Convention.

According to *Cluster Munition Monitor*, in 2011, at least 21 states and the EC reported providing 60 million USD for work related to the Convention. Their support went to activities in 13 states contaminated by cluster munition remnants, including countries recognized as among the most heavily affected: Lao PDR, Lebanon, and Vietnam. These numbers compiled by the Monitor do not give a comprehensive picture about assistance provided, since many donors report on assistance to cluster munitions clearance jointly with other mine action funding.

In regards to victim assistance funding, many affected countries have presented their specific victim assistance needs. Countries in a position to assist must respond to these requests. And as we said earlier this week, reduced victim assistance funding means that the suffering of many cluster munition victims continues. Fewer are getting the help they need - the help that has been promised through this Convention.

We have to keep in mind that progress on international cooperation and assistance is not a goal in itself, but rather a means to an end – which is a world free of cluster munitions. So ultimately what counts is making sure that states are working steadily and efficiently toward full implementation of their obligations and are receiving adequate international – and national – support to do so.

With that in mind we would like to emphasize four areas the Cluster Munition Coalition believes still need improvement in order to ensure the most efficient use of resources. We believe states need to do more to: 1) clearly identify the remaining challenge; 2) develop plans and budgets for carrying out remaining tasks, including where international support is needed; 3) make the most efficient use of such assistance; and 4) report on support provided and progress relative to the plans. Let me now elaborate on a few of these points.

First, we call on affected states to clearly identify the remaining work, whether it is for stockpile destruction, clearance or victim assistance. How can effective assistance be provided without proper knowledge of what exactly needs to be done? Next, many states still need to produce solid and clearly-presented plans, showing what national resources are available and where international assistance is needed, with a precise timeframe and benchmarks along the way.

Putting international resources to efficient and effective use is also still a challenge. All actors need to do more to reduce heavy costs that do not directly contribute to getting the work done. They need to ensure that material equipment is relevant, put to good use, and even shared among states. Affected

states should ensure that work in country is not delayed due to bureaucratic delays or other factors within their control. And both donors and affected states need to maintain a close partnership to ensure any challenges that arise are quickly addressed.

Finally, we call for better reporting on what support is being provided and how it is being used. In particular, we need to hear from states on precisely what progress has been made relative to their plans. We also welcome reports on cooperation between affected states and other ways states can help each other beyond the traditional donor-affected state relationship. All states should be sharing good practices be it in the field of clearance, mine risk education or victim assistance, and we thank Mexico and Spain for the booklet they have developed in that regard.

Mr. President, I would like to end with a special call to those non-signatory states - like my own country the United States – that contribute financially to removing cluster munition contamination but have withheld their political support for the Convention. The financial support you give is very important, but by staying out of the Convention, you are undercutting your own efforts by potentially causing future contamination. So join now, and show your true support for ridding the world of cluster munitions once and for all.

Thank you.