

**CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS**

**THIRD MEETING OF STATES PARTIES, 11-14 SEPTEMBER 2012**

**INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION AND ASSISTANCE**

**STATEMENT BY NEW ZEALAND**

At the outset I would like to thank the Co-ordinators, Mexico and Spain, for their ongoing strong commitment to promote international co-operation and assistance, including through their two, very welcome, initiatives referred to this morning.

The Convention's international co-operation and assistance provisions are integral to the realisation of its objectives. New Zealand takes these obligations seriously and looks to provide funding and in-kind contributions as and when we can.

New Zealand is a long-standing contributor to the UN Mine Action Service providing NZ\$1 million last year to support UNMAS' clearance, risk education and stockpile destruction efforts. We are also pleased that annual contributions to the ICRC are used to support victims reintegrate fully into all aspects of their communities.

In the past year, New Zealand has also funded clearance and victim assistance activities in the West Bank, Cambodia, Mozambique, Egypt, Libya and Laos among others. In regard to the latter, the New Zealand Foreign Minister was pleased to announce earlier this year a continuation of our contribution to clearance and tourism development in Xieng Khouang province in Laos through additional funding of US\$1.9 million over the next two years.

This contribution is just one demonstration of New Zealand's ongoing commitment to supporting and working with affected States to deal with the terrible legacy of cluster munitions.