



**FOURTH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES  
TO THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS**

Zambia, 9 – 13 September 2013

**Statement by Lebanon on Clearance and Risk Reduction**

Mr. /Madam. Chair,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Lebanese delegation I would like to thank the Republic of Zambia for organizing this conference and to thank all the coordinators who prepared for today's exchange on clearance and risk reduction.

Lebanon is contaminated by almost all types of cluster munitions covering vast areas of the Lebanese territories. Until August 2013, the Lebanon Mine Action Center's ongoing efforts to optimize the efficiency of clearance and to meet its obligations under the convention particularly Articles 4 and 6.

I am glad to report that the surveying of all contaminated areas by cluster munitions has been completed. Nearly 1,484 tasks have been identified covering an estimated area of 57 million square meters of land and posing a threat to nearly a million local residents. All necessary information and maps were filled in the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) and all dangerous areas were fenced and clearly marked to prevent citizens from approaching them. Moreover, technical survey teams periodically patrol the areas as to ensure no tampering in fencing and marking

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Around 39 million square meters of land have been released by the Centre for use by the affected community. LMAC will release the remaining 18 million square meters according to the following priority list set in the national strategy 2011-2020:

Priority 1 (high risk): Access road, infrastructure and the primary livelihoods of the citizens.

Priority 2 (medium risk): Agriculture lands.

Priority 3(low risk): Uncultivated lands, valleys and pastures.

In addition to the aforesaid, LMAC conducted a post clearance survey on all cluster munitions contaminated lands in South Lebanon. The survey revealed that 78% of land released was used for agriculture, 5% residential, 2% infrastructure and 15% pasture.

Lebanon is tirelessly trying to meet its obligations towards the CCM in order to become free of Cluster munitions by the year 2016. The recent National Strategy (2011-2020) clearly stated that with 30 demining teams on an annual basis, Lebanon could meet its obligation. The team calculation was based on several factors among which we can mention the daily average area cleared by each team and the annual number of working days.

However, the number of demining teams since setting the strategy did not exceed 24, with a shortfall of 6 teams. In addition and as mentioned before, LMAC survey results identified new tasks that increased the size of contaminated areas.

As such, we regretfully express our inability today to complete our obligations under article 4 of the CCM by the year 2016 unless more funding is secured to finance additional demining teams. Otherwise, Lebanon will require more time to meet the said obligations.

On a more positive note, LMAC is currently reassessing its strategy in light of these findings in order to identify the number of additional teams needed to meet commitments. Results will be released by the end of this year.

On a separate note, we would like to highlight that Lebanon has been actively engaged in exchange programmes and has been providing a number of training courses. Moreover, plans are underway to open a humanitarian demining school by the end of this year as to help regional countries manage their mine action programs.

### **Mine Risk Education**

LMAC is keen to implement its 2011-2020 Mine Action strategy related to risk education. Annual action plans have been developed; implementation relies with the national steering committee.

LMAC is supporting initiatives aiming at sustaining behavioral change. We use all opportunities to spread knowledge and enhance skills to keep people safe and away from danger.

On April 4<sup>th</sup> for the occasion of the international mine action awareness day, a national MRE campaign was launched using varied media channels and communication means to reinforce safety messages.

To note, the survivor's football team engaged in different tournaments across the country including a match with the military academy team.

In addition, a KAP survey was recently launched with UNICEF funding, refresher trainings for MRE activities are starting next week again with UNICEF support.

Finally, an EU tender was announced to fund MRE actions over the coming three years starting in 2014.

In due context, we need to note that beyond international support limited local funding is available to MRE in Lebanon.

Nonetheless, international support is highly needed in order to allow LMAC achieving its obligation under the CCM and to contain the Cluster Munitions problem in the country.

Thank you for your attention