



FOURTH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS

Zambia, 9 – 13 September 2013

Statement by Lebanon on International Cooperation and Assistance

Madame President,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Lebanese delegation, we highly appreciate the hospitality of the republic of Zambia and their great efforts in organizing the 4th meeting of states parties to the convention of cluster munitions.

This meeting provides a unique opportunity for state parties to report on their progress towards the removal of cluster munitions and on the needs and obstacles faced by other states parties to meet the requirement of the convention, thus providing a platform where technical and financial support opportunities can be developed to assist states parties in need.

We would like to convey our sincere appreciation to the donor community and to the international and non-governmental organizations as they have greatly contributed to the strengthening of Lebanon's mine action capacities for over a decade now. We take the opportunity to thank in particular the European Union, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (WRA) among many other donors.

Lebanon has a leadership role to play in sharing good practices, skills, expertise and experience with other affected states.

The Lebanon Mine Action Center is actively participating in international meetings and forums, making much effort to meet its CCM treaty obligations. In addition, the Lebanon Mine Action Center contributes in the transfer of its experience in operations, MVA, MRE, and the overall management of humanitarian Mine Action Programs to the neighbouring Arab Countries.

Furthermore, Lebanon plays a highly effective role within the Arabic outreach program. During December 2013, Lebanon in coordination with GICHD will host two workshops; one on IMSMA upgrade, and another on Information Management pertaining to land release.

To formalize its capacity building initiatives on the local and international level, Lebanon will establish a regional humanitarian demining school with the support of the French Government and under the supervision of the Lebanon Mine Action Center. The school will start its training classes as of October 2013 and will provide easy access to the following:

- Cluster munitions clearance techniques;
- Information Management System in Mine Action (IMSMA);
- Quality Assurance and Control;
- Mine Risk Education program; and
- Mine Victim Assistance (MVA).

Unfortunately, According to the National Strategy 2011-2020, it is impossible for Lebanon to meet its commitment towards freeing Lebanon of cluster munitions by 2016 without additional funding to make up for the shortages in the number of allocated clearance teams. This shortage is due to the shift in donors' interests towards the latest critical humanitarian crisis that has occurred in our region.

Thank you for your attention