

CCM 4MSP – cooperation and assistance.

Verbal report by the coordinators: Mexico and Sweden. [COORDINATORS]

Thank you Madam President,

Madam President, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues,

Mexico and Sweden have shared the honor and responsibility as coordinators for cooperation and assistance of the convention since the 3MSP in Oslo last year.

In this verbal report we would like to briefly address the status of cooperation and assistance in the Convention, and thereafter we would like to introduce the working paper that we have jointly submitted to the meeting.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Article 6 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions states that:

“Each State party in a position to do so shall provide technical, material and financial assistance to State parties affected by cluster munitions, aimed at the implementation of the obligations of this Convention”.

Nevertheless, to be able to provide any kind of technical, material or financial assistance, needs have to be clearly identified.

As mentioned in the Lusaka Progress Report, document numbered CCM/MSP/2013/WP.5, since the entry into force, only 15 States Parties have reported assistance needs, of which two have fulfilled the obligations for which international assistance was required.

Furthermore, the Lusaka Progress Report, paragraphs 57 to 67, outline the state of play in the field of cooperation and assistance. 13 States Parties have explicitly reported that they are in need of international cooperation and assistance. 22 States Parties and two signatories have reported that they have provided funding for implementation of the CCM.

The Report also outlines some of the challenges facing us, namely that some States Parties with obligations under Articles 3, 4 and/or 5 and with needs for international cooperation and assistance have not communicated their needs to other States Parties.

Some states also need to develop and/or update and improve national plans identifying accurate needs, extent of the problems, priorities and timelines.

Other challenges that remain for States and other implementation actors include: how to increase regional cooperation as well as how to increase technical cooperation and exchanges of experiences and best practices between affected States?

Some of these issues were also highlighted in the discussions at the Intersessional meeting of the CCM in Geneva in April of this year. Those discussions showed that international cooperation and assistance does not need to take the form of financial support, but that exchanges of best practices and technical assistance may be just as relevant.

The technical workshop during the Intersessional Meeting also showed that many states, agencies and UN organizations have skills available to support States requiring assistance.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Some questions that we may wish to discuss at this meeting include:

- How can States Parties ensure that international assistance and cooperation efforts are linked to actual needs on the ground and broadened to include exchange of best practices, equipment, technology, skills and experience?
- How can States Parties and other actors providing assistance structure their support according to national plans and priorities, and how can we enable long-term planning?
- How can the States Parties work together, and in cooperation with other actors, to overcome challenges related to building national capacity and strengthening national ownership?

- How can more States Parties be mobilized to support the implementation of the CCM through international cooperation and assistance measures?

It is evident from the above that sometimes there is a lack of communication between states parties with needs and states parties in a position to meet these needs which impedes us as a community from obtaining a clear picture of needs and resources.

As Coordinators on Cooperation and Assistance, we believe that this state of affairs slows the implementation of the CCM.

This brings us to our final point, the working paper that we have submitted to the 4MSP. It bears the document reference CCM/MSP/2013/WP.2. The paper builds on, and attempts to develop, the ideas put forward in a 2012 non-paper by Spain and Mexico as coordinators of cooperation and assistance.

The Convention, along with other similar disarmament instruments shares the challenges of creating the proper framework for developing cooperation and assistance and to make sure that the resources available can be connected to the needs that states parties have.

Affected states encounter difficulties in obtaining a clear view of resources available and means of mobilizing them, and donor states find it difficult to get an overview of needs. It is our belief that it is in the interest of the CCM to seek to improve this situation.

In order to help fulfill the goals of the relevant actions of the Vientiane Action Plan (namely #42, #43, #45 and #46) we propose to improve the channels of contact between the parties of the Convention by the creation of an online Cooperation Portal for potential recipients and donors.

The functioning principles of the proposed Portal are described in the working paper, and we will not go into too much detail about them here.

We will however say that the idea is that the portal should be constructed using information provided on a completely voluntary basis. Contributing information to the portal should be perceived as a help for States to facilitate cooperation and not as a burden.

It should be low or zero-cost and not require any additional resources other than those already available for the convention's implementation.

The participant states should be the ones responsible for the content published on this portal.

It is envisaged to be simple and easy to use. And it should be complementary in nature, not seeking to replace any already existing cooperation mechanism. Nor would it replace reporting requirements under the Convention.

In addition to information from State Parties, the portal should also be structured to enable the publication of information from relevant international organizations and NGOs operating in the sector.

This cooperation portal may not be the solution to all the challenges facing us in the field of cooperation and assistance, but we believe that it will go some part of the way by giving the CCM community an overview of the needs of states and resources available to meet them.

We invite delegations to study the working paper and make comments or suggestions on the proposals contained therein, either at this meeting or during the intersessional work of the convention.

This, Madam President, ladies and gentlemen, concludes the report of the coordinators on cooperation and assistance.

Thank you for your attention.