



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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**Fourth Meeting of States Parties
of the Convention on Cluster Munitions**

Statement by

SWITZERLAND

Clearance

Lusaka, 12 September 2013

Check against delivery

Madame President

Co-ordinated and efficient activities with regard to clearance and risk reduction are crucial to achieve the goal of the CCM, a world free of cluster munitions and their remnants. The successful implementation of the Convention also depends on how we can achieve our goals in terms of clearance, as this will make a real difference for the affected populations. Simultaneously, successful clearance operations enable personnel of peacekeeping and humanitarian missions to move around freely and to fulfil their tasks safely, including the delivery of humanitarian aid and setting the bases for social and economic development. Clearance is also of utmost importance to enhance human security in affected regions, thereby building confidence and trust in a safer environment to build a more stable future.

Madame President

Switzerland's whole of government strategy for the years 2012-2015 rests on an integrated approach covering antipersonnel mines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war, based on the respective relevant international and legally binding instruments. In practical terms, Switzerland supports mine action projects, including clearance projects, both with financial contributions and expertise with regard to the information management, accounting and logistics, or also the donation of so-called SM EOD Charges that allow a contact free disposal of unexploded ordnance (UXO) and mines.

In 2012, Switzerland's financial contributions to mine action slightly increased to previous years to a total of over 17 Mio CHF in total, within the framework of the strategy of the Swiss Confederation. Most of these resources went towards supporting clearance activities, including in countries heavily affected by cluster munitions.

Also for the coming years, Switzerland will keep and if possible even extend its engagement in the domain of clearance.

Madame President

The implementation and fulfilment of the obligations under article 4 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions can benefit from an elaborated set of international standards, such as the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). Switzerland fully supports the mainstreaming of these standards throughout clearance projects. We would like to thank both the Coordinators Ireland and Laos as well as Norway for their Working Papers that contribute to that discussion and can only echo the conclusions highlighting the relevance of *inter alia* national standards, comparable survey data and applied land release methods. The IMAS can be used as an important fundament for these

elements just mentioned. The IMAS have developed over years and include numerous lessons learned from the international community; the continued specific experience with the clearance of cluster munition remnants provides valuable input for the further development of the IMAS in the future. In our view, therefore, the guiding principles for the clearance of cluster munition remnants and the assessment of compliance are indeed already there and are already included in numerous clearance projects nowadays.

Madame President

Let me at this stage also thank the GICHD for their valuable work of the past years with regard to Land Release Methods and the Cluster Munitions Database; such tools are very important in order to optimise the efficiency of clearance projects. We encourage the GICHD to further its important work in this area.

Thank you.