



Fifth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions,

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Statement delivered by Dr Guy Rhodes, Director of Operations
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Thank you Chair,

The nature of ERW contamination, beyond landmines, is often complex and we should not pretend that the survey and clearance of sub-munitions is an easy job. It is not.

The challenges for determining the extent of contamination, often over vast areas and amongst a background of broader ERW, can be daunting - but is helped significantly:

1. By correctly identifying sub munitions – a task made simpler by the use of the CM-ID Tool presented in Lusaka last year
2. By using survey approaches that exploit characteristics of the cluster contamination – in particular footprints from dispersion patterns.
 - An example here is the CMRS technical survey approach developed by NPA – a technique which is being used increasingly by other operators
3. Survey and Clearance can also be helped by mapping broader ERW – items such as bombs, rockets, grenades, mortars and so on, as discrete 'spot' contamination (with no associated area) AND disaggregating sub munitions from other ERW contamination in databases – a separation which still remains to be achieved in some countries

4. The rate of technical survey and clearance of sub-munitions can be increased considerably by using different, often less sensitive, and more targeted, detector systems – combined with more aggressive operational approaches

5. There is also a need to understand the realities of addressing mixed contamination - where deeper buried ERW and items that cannot be suitably mapped will have to be managed over many years - even decades. For instance,
 - It is 100yrs since the start of the First World War. We heard in a side event yesterday that 200T of ERW are still recovered annually from Belgium soil alone
 - It is 75 years since the start of the Second World War. Japan still has over 400 call outs of its EOD teams per year and recovers 50T of ERW
 - It is 25 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall and the tonnage of ERW uncovered from within Berlin alone is approximately 45T annually.
 - These are all significant operations (mostly reactive responses) that take place without reference to any baselines.

It is the drawing on the experience from ~~more~~ historic conflicts to better inform appropriate policies and practices to address more recent contamination that is the basis of a GICHD project with the acronym MORE – which stands for Management of Residual ERW

Acknowledgement of the long term nature of the UXO in many countries – doesn't mean a loss of emphasis on clearance obligations under the CCM. Quite the contrary; where a long term ERW problem exists, survey and clearance should be targeted at components of the contamination that pose the greatest threat to communities and individuals – which promotes the targeting of sub-munitions as a priority.

6. And finally, operations can be helped by paying greater attention to Information Management processes and adapting tools and systems to provide significant improvements for decision-support in the coordination and management of cluster contamination. The recent launch of IMSMA NG 6 is such a system.

Thank you