



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

Fifth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions

Statement on General exchange of views

Agenda item 9

San José, 2 September 2014

Delivered by Ms. Agnès Marcaillou, Director, United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

Mr. President,

This statement is delivered on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action¹ (IACG-MA), comprising 14 United Nations entities involved in mine action.

Since this is the first time I am taking the floor, I would like to congratulate, on behalf of the IACG-MA, the Government of the Republic of Costa Rica, and yourself in particular, on your election as President of the Fifth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

In its 2013-2018 Strategy, the United Nations committed itself to advocate for compliance with International Humanitarian Law. The United Nations continues to be a strong supporter of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Considerable progress has already been made in reducing the harm to civilians caused by cluster munitions. The United Nations expresses its satisfaction at the compliance shown to-date by States Parties with most of the provisions and obligations of the Convention.

The United Nations is pleased to see the level of progress made under Article 3: stockpile destruction is one of the areas where implementation has worked very well. Nineteen States Parties have declared completion. Some 130 million explosive sub-munitions have been destroyed. The remaining States Parties that have declared stockpiles have indicated they expect to complete destruction well in advance of their deadlines.

However a number of challenges remain. Reporting is still pending for a large number of States Parties. The San Jose Progress Report cites the current rate of annual reporting to be 53%, which is down from a high of 72%. The United Nations notes with concern this low rate of reporting as it appears to confirm a decreasing trend.

¹ The Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) / United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), UN Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN Development Programme (UNDP), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) (Observer status), and the World Bank (Observer status).

The United Nations is very concerned at the confirmed use, as well as the allegations of use, of cluster munitions in South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Ukraine. The United Nations condemns these actions, which perpetuate human suffering and undermine the norm established by the CCM, as well as the credibility and strength of International Humanitarian Law. I would like to echo the appeal of the Secretary General: the carnage happening in Syria as we meet must stop and the use of cluster munitions everywhere must end immediately.

You will recall that, in the UN Mine Action Strategy 2013-2018, the UN reaffirmed its commitments to act effectively and efficiently towards a world free of the threat of mines and Explosive Remnants of War, including cluster munitions.

The authors of the Convention have designated the United Nations Secretary General as its depository. The United Nations will continue to play a significant role in assisting States Parties in their implementation of the provisions of the Convention.

The United Nations looks forward to the 2015 First Review Conference to assess progress and reaffirm the significance of the Convention.

I thank you, Mr. President.