



**FIFTH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES  
TO THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS**

Costa Rica, 2-5 September 2014

**Statement by Lebanon on International Cooperation and Assistance**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are glad to meet you again today at the Fifth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) that allows all the States to share their expertise and experience in order to meet the obligations of the CCM.

We, in Lebanon, and through the Lebanon Mine Action Center, strongly insist on our keenness to take part in all activities, meetings, forums and workshops that will contribute to the evolution of our Humanitarian Mine Action Program in the field of the cluster munitions' removal.

Therefore, we stress our readiness for continuous cooperation with all the States by sharing our experience through field visits and workshops. In this context, Lebanon, through the Mine Action Arabic Program and in collaboration with the GICHD hosted two workshops in 2014. The first workshop aimed at translating the IMAS terms into Arabic in a bid to standardize terminologies while the second workshop focused on the training of 20 participants from Palestine, Algeria, Jordan, Somal, Western Sahara, Yemen, Sudan, Iraq, Libya, Mauritania, Egypt and Lebanon on Quality Management. In addition, Lebanon received delegations from neighboring countries (such as Libya and Tajikistan) seeking to benefit and learn from its experience and will receive a delegation from Colombia in October 2014 for the same purposes.

Based on the needs assessed in the Arabic Outreach Program, Lebanon initiated the process to establish the Regional School for Humanitarian Demining in Lebanon with a technical support from the French army that will secure the expertise and know-how in the region. The RSDHL aims at supporting the Near and Middle East countries affected by mines and Cluster munitions by offering training courses in Arabic for military and civilian humanitarian deminers as well as training courses on Mine Action Management in collaboration with the GICHD.

In closing,

It is important to mention that all the LMAC's outstanding achievements would have never been accomplished without the donors' technical and financial support. We take this opportunity to thank the UNDP, the UNMAS, the EU and the WRA. However, despite the several achievements, Lebanon will be unable to meet its 2016 set timeline for a free of cluster munitions country due to resource shortages.

And finally, we look forward to a greater support from our donors to achieve our strategic goals so that Lebanon would be free from the impact of cluster munitions and their socio- economic impact.

Thank you.