



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

Fifth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions

Statement on National Implementation Measures

Agenda item 10(e)

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Delivered by Ms. Abigail Hartley, Chief of Policy, Advocacy and Public Information, United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

The following 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.

It is essential that national legislation translates legally binding commitments under the Convention into reality, and all appropriate measures are taken to prevent any prohibited activity. The United Nations reiterates the importance of Article 19, which unequivocally states that, “the Articles of this Convention shall not be subject to reservations.”

The United Nations remains committed to providing assistance to affected countries on national implementation measures by providing policy and legislative advice, support to drafting of legislation, and facilitating other actions required to meet Article 9 commitments.

For States in the process of adopting relevant legislations, this means completing this process without delay. For States who have not initiated legislative procedures, doing so must be a priority.

Norway and Ghana, supported by UNDP, the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and in cooperation with the working group Chair on National Implementation Measures, has worked on the development of model legislation for African countries, organizing a one day workshop, here in San Jose earlier this week.

In Lebanon, the Mine Action Centre of the Lebanese Army, the University of Balamand, and the Mine Risk Education National Steering Committee jointly implemented a risk education

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).

programme which in the past 14 months reached 89,600 at-risk civilians, including 87,000 children. This example of national implementation was supported by UNICEF.

As the Parliament in the Democratic Republic of Congo recently approved the CCM ratification law, UNMAS will continue to assist in adapting the current law on landmines to include cluster munitions and ensure conformity with international and national standards.

Emphasizing the crucial role of regional approaches, the United Nations once again welcomes the initiative of African States to “redouble efforts to work towards the adoption and promulgation of comprehensive national legislation and associated administrative measures”, launched during the Lomé Regional Seminar on the Universalization of the CCM. UNDP supported this conference, along with the CMC and the ICRC.

In addition, UNMAS has supported the African Union process to elaborate a Strategic Framework for its Mine Action and Explosive Management Programme, which also addresses explosive hazards such as cluster munitions. UNMAS encourages the African Union to issue and implement this document, presented last 4 April in Addis Ababa.

Finally, the United Nations wishes to recognize the important work done by New Zealand as the Chair of the Working Group on National Implementation Measures.

I thank you, Mr. President.