

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Coordinators on Clearance and Risk Reduction Education, the Netherlands and Norway, allow me to report on our work in the last 12 months and to give an overview on the progress made in implementing the CCM in this particular area.

In order to meet the goals set out in the Dubrovnik Action Plan of a decreased number of new victims with the aim of zero, States have taken actions to “assess the extent of the problem” as stipulated in the Action Plan. To that extent, **ten State Parties** have reported to be contaminated by cluster munition remnants and therefore have obligations under Article 4. **Eight out of ten States Parties** provided information concerning the size and/or location of contaminated areas in their 2016 Article 7 Reports.

The following information has not been covered by the Progress Report as it was received after 1 July 2017. One State that submitted its 2016 annual report did not provide updated information under Form F on Clearance. As Coordinators, we would like to urge Chad to report on progress on the implementation of its Art. 4 obligation with a completion deadline of 2023 and stand ready to provide support.

**Seven State Parties** have reported the status and progress of clearance programmes on their national territory. **Three States reported to have discovered additional contaminated areas.**

We are further very pleased to report that during the reporting period, **one state party**, Mozambique, completed clearance and declared fulfilment of its Article 4 obligations well ahead of its treaty deadline. We would like to commend Mozambique for this important achievement.

Moreover, **seven State Parties** reported that they have taken measures to provide risk reduction education and/or to prevent civilian access to areas contaminated by cluster munition remnants. In addition, **two State Parties** have reported to have released land through methods other than clearance.

In their Article 7 reports, **six State Parties** requested international assistance and cooperation to fulfil Article 4 obligations and **sixteen States Parties** reported having supported clearance activities of affected States. **Twelve of these have given support to risk reduction education and capacity building. Five State Parties** reported to have allocated national resources to clearance.

A key goal in the Dubrovnik Action Plan is **“increased exchange of information of good and cost-effective clearance practices including on safety, environmental impact and efficiency”**. To help reach this goal, we as Coordinators continued discussions with key operators on challenges faced and on how State Parties can support their work to reach the goals set out in the Convention. Through these discussions, the importance of adequate survey practices and standards emerged as a key precondition for effective implementation of Article 4. Progress has been made in the application of appropriate techniques, but there still remains examples of overestimations of suspected hazardous areas, resulting in a waste of scarce clearance resources.

In order to promote cooperation and partnerships in this area, the Coordinators organized a workshop within a concrete country setting, Lebanon, to discuss experiences, opportunities and remaining challenges in late 2016. This technical workshop brought together the Lebanese Mine Action Centre for Humanitarian Demining(LMAC)/Regional Mine Action Centre (RMAC), national and international clearance operators, donors and UNDP representatives to discuss survey and clearance methods and strategies in close proximity to the field. A similar workshop to bring together national mine action authorities and operators from affected countries in the Balkans is currently being planned for November 2017. These workshops are aimed to further facilitate a strategic dialogue on ways for State Parties to meet their Article 4 deadlines, for example through solid completion plans, without the need to request extensions.