

Statement on International Cooperation and Assistance
8th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions
3-5 September 2018



Thank you,

This week we have the opportunity to take stock of progress made over the last 10 years, as well as to identify challenges and needs, and to explore areas for potential improvements.

One of the keys to our success depends on efficient cooperation and constructive assistance between all stakeholders. With that in mind, we welcome the efforts of the Coordinators in promoting dialogue between States Parties with needs and potential partners who may be able to help meet those needs.

We believe that to ensure the most efficient use of resources, states should: 1. clearly communicate challenges and seek assistance at an early stage, 2. make sure the resources provided are put to good use; and 3. provide complete and regular reporting on needs and capacities. Let me briefly elaborate on these key points.

The only way to provide effective and timely assistance is to have a comprehensive picture of what exactly needs to be done. Therefore, affected states should identify the remaining challenges based on appropriate surveys, need assessments and analysis. They should also produce a clear completion plan including a detailed timeframe and information on available national resources and their needs for technical and/or financial international assistance. States requiring assistance should play a proactive part in seeking assistance and not wait until the last minute to make their needs known and to identify potential partners to address those needs.

Donor states and organizations must remain careful that the assistance provided is relevant, timely, put to good use, and answers the real needs and priorities of the country in question providing multi-year funding where appropriate. Close partnership and regular communication between donors and national mine action authorities are necessary to ensure the effective use of international resources, the application of tailored approaches, and the quick resolution of any challenges encountered.

Finally, one of the most powerful channels for communication is Article 7 reports. The submission of regular and detailed reports provides the necessary information regarding pressing needs for assistance from the one side, and assistance capacities and priorities from donor states on the other. States that have not yet done so should submit their 2018 Article 7 reports without delay.

In closing the CMC would like to express its deep appreciation for the work of the Coordinators, and in particular salute Hugh Watson for his dedication to the advancement of the Convention over the years -- including as the highly successful coordinator of the sponsorship program which has allowed for meaningful work during Meetings of States Parties. Hugh, we wish you all the best for your return to Australia.

Thank you.