



Universalization

Monday 16 April 2012

Mr./Ms. Coordinator,

I am delivering the following statement on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action (IACG-MA) comprising 14 UN entities involved in mine action.

First, we wish to congratulate Trinidad and Tobago, the Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Italy, Mauritania, Côte d'Ivoire and Honduras for ratifying the CCM since the Second Meeting of States Parties in September 2011. Seventy countries have so far expressed their consent to be bound by this Convention, thus contributing to the universalisation of this norm.

While we welcome this progress, it is regrettable that a considerable number of cluster munitions-affected countries still have not joined the Convention. We understand that some of those countries are currently in the process of national ratification or accession and we look forward to their updates during the course of this week.

Furthermore, it is estimated that States Parties who report that they possess cluster munitions stockpiles represent approximately a quarter of the countries with stockpiles of these weapons.

The United Nations makes use of every available opportunity to advocate for the universalization of the CCM. Most recently, on the occasion of the 4 April International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, the Secretary-General called for the universal adherence to the CCM and other relevant treaties.

For example, UNDP is also providing such support towards universalization through its assistance in the organization of a regional conference planned for Accra in May 2012. This conference will provide an excellent opportunity for the promotion of south-south cooperation, addressing implementation challenges to achieve universalization in the Sub-Saharan African region. In addition, Lebanon is conducting consultations to host an Arab regional technical workshop on universalization in June 2012, again with support from UNDP.

Advocacy efforts are also undertaken by UNMAT at the field-level through the extended United Nations presence, particularly in those places where we are supporting or managing mine action programmes.

UNMAT looks forward to hearing how other States Parties will continue to promote the Convention and assist Non-States Parties to overcome whatever constraints they may be facing in joining the Convention, and we stand ready to provide assistance where needed. We particularly welcome the statements which have demonstrated that joining the Convention is the best way for States to receive assistance with their obligations, whether for clearance operations, stockpile destruction, or the expansion of national victim assistance measures.

Thank you Mr./Ms. Coordinator,.