



Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)

CCM Intersessional Meeting 15 - 18 April 2013

Clearance

Geneva, 17 April 2013

Madame / Mister Coordinator

My delegation would like to thank the Lao PDR and Ireland for their preparations of today's exchange on clearance and risk reduction.

Co-ordinated and efficient activities with regard to clearance and risk reduction are crucial to achieve the goal of the CCM, a world free of cluster munitions and their remnants. Clearance is one of the key aspects of the convention of which the implementation will make a real difference for the affected populations. Simultaneously, clearance operations are also important to enable personnel of peacekeeping and humanitarian missions to move around freely and to safely fulfil their tasks, including the delivery of humanitarian aid and setting the bases for development co-operation. It is thus of utmost importance to enhance human security in affected regions, thereby building confidence and trust in a safer environment.

Madame / Mister Coordinator

Switzerland applies a whole-of-government approach with regard to its assistance activities in the fields of clearance and risk reduction. Our strategy for the years 2012-2015 rests on an integrated approach covering antipersonnel mines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war, based on the respective relevant international and legally binding instruments. In practical terms, Switzerland supports mine action projects, including clearance projects, both with financial contributions and expertise with regard to the information manage-

ment, accounting and logistics, or also the donation of so-called SM EOD Charges that allow a contact free disposal of unexploded ordnance (UXO) and mines.

In 2012, Switzerland again contributed more financial resources than in previous years,, that is over 17 Mio CHF in total, within the framework of the strategy I referred to earlier. Most of these resources went towards supporting clearance activities, including in countries heavily affected by cluster munitions, such as Laos PDR.

Madame / Mister Coordinator

The political will of States Parties to establish and conduct effective and efficient clearance operations and risk education programmes certainly remains a decisive factor for a successful implementation of the CCM. A continued exchange among governmental, UN and non-governmental mine action operators on experiences also seems to us to be a key element to fulfil article 4 commitments.

Let me at this stage also thank the GICHD for their valuable work of the past years with regard to Land Release Methods or the Cluster Munitions Database; such tools are very important in order to optimise the efficiency of clearance project. We hope that the GICHD continues this good work.

Thank you.