

CCM ISC

Article 6 International Cooperation and assistance

Statement by Norway, June 2011

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Thank you Mr. Chair

Adopting the Vientiane Action Plan last year, we agreed to a series of steps that all states should take to facilitate adequate and efficient international cooperation and assistance. Our ability to implement Article 6 will determine if the convention will be a success or not. While the Action Plan separates between states with obligations and states in a position to support, Norway recognises that implementation of Article 6 will be dependent on the willingness and ability of all States Parties to take necessary steps. All States Parties are in a position to support implementation of the convention in one way or another.

The objective of Article 6 is to support implementation of the operative articles in the convention, namely stockpile destruction, clearance and victim assistance. These three areas represent very different challenges that are quite difficult to discuss together in a meaningful manner apart from on a very general level.

Both clearance and stockpile destruction are essentially finite tasks with clear endpoints and with timelines that with a few significant exceptions do not stretch longer than a decade, and for many states much less. Support for states will necessarily be different for those with comprehensive contamination or large stockpiles, than for those with a limited problem. Victim assistance constitutes an altogether quite different challenge and the timelines are the full lifespan of those affected.

Norway would recommend that we take steps now to ensure that our discussions on international cooperation and assistance reflect these realities, and that we already start with that in Beirut this September.

Stockpile destruction and clearance of cluster munition remnants constitute manageable tasks. If we are able to structure cooperation and assistance in ways that facilitate for adequate and targeted efforts early, tailored to solve the actual problem swift and in a rational manner, we would save on our resources in the long run.

All actors have a responsibility in this undertaking. States with obligations and resource needs must take full ownership of their own problem, and demonstrate political leadership, including the provision of national resources.

The clearance community, with States, NGOs, the UN and centres like the GICHD have a responsibility to ensure that their interventions are relevant and proportional to the specific problem at hand. Further they have a responsibility to ensure that their activities do not inflate the problem, as we have seen in the mine clearance sector.

States with resources to support implementation must live up to their obligations and support those states that are diligent in their efforts to take responsibility of their own problem, but still may need external assistance.

Norway will continue to provide substantial support for actions to implement the convention in this crucial first implementation phase. Key criteria for our priorities include plans and timelines that reflect the realities on the ground, realistic budgets, national ownership and willingness to apply the most efficient and effective methods.

Thank you