

## **CCM CLEARANCE AND RISK REDUCTION EDUCATION CONCEPT NOTE**

### **Enhancing Implementation of Action 4 of the Dubrovnik Action Plan (Clearance and Risk Reduction Education) up to the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties (7MSP)**

#### **1. Background to Work Plan Context**

Under Article 4 paragraph 1 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), each State Party undertakes to clear and destroy, or ensure the clearance and destruction of, cluster munition remnants located in cluster munition contaminated areas under its jurisdiction or control.

Furthermore, in fulfilling their obligations under paragraph 1, States Parties are required, according to paragraph 2, to survey, assess and record the threat, as well as assess and prioritise needs in terms of marking, protection of civilians, clearance and destruction and take steps to mobilise resources and develop a national plan to carry out these activities. They are also required to take all feasible steps to ensure that all cluster munition contaminated areas under their jurisdiction or control are perimeter-marked, monitored and protected by fencing or other means to ensure the effective exclusion of civilians. The paragraph also requires that States Parties conduct risk reduction education to ensure awareness among civilians living in or around cluster munition contaminated areas of the risks posed by such remnants.

As documented in the Geneva Progress Report submitted to the 6MSP, thirteen States parties have reported contamination by cluster munition remnants and therefore have obligations under Article 4. In Article 7 reports submitted before the 6MSP, eight States parties provided information concerning the size and/or location of contaminated areas, on measures taken to prevent civilian access to contaminated areas and on the use of survey in their programmes and standards of operations. Three States Parties reported to have released land. With regard to the inclusion of affected communities in the development and implementation of national clearance plans, the mainstreaming of gender and age sensitivities was, at the same time, lacking in the submitted reports.

At the First Review Conference of the Convention in 2015, States Parties adopted the Dubrovnik Action Plan (DAP) which was to guide the work under the Convention between 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2020. This concept note is developed on the basis of the elements outlined in Action 3 of the DAP.

Action 3 of the DAP encourages States Parties with clearance obligations to: assess the extent of the problem; protect people from harm; develop a resourced plan; be inclusive when developing the response; manage information for analysis, decision-making and reporting; provide support, assist and cooperate; apply practice development and promote and expand cooperation.

## 2. Objectives

- Increased number of States Parties with obligations under Article 4 that are on track to reaching their respective deadlines under the Convention;
- Increased exchange of information of good and cost effective clearance practices;
- Better targeting of scarce clearance resources by effective prioritisation;
- Increased amounts of suspected land released for subsistence, cultural, social and commercial resources

## 3. Strategies, activities and timelines

- Hold a workshop targeting a specific country situation. The workshop will convene relevant national authorities, operators and donors in a specific context to discuss experience, opportunities and remaining challenges, in close proximity to the field. Such a dialogue will aim to facilitate a strategic dialogue on ways for States Parties to meet their Article 4 deadlines, without the need to request extensions. The meeting will focus solely on matters related to cluster munition survey and clearance (and not landmine related issues), and will not include Mine Risk Education (MRE) or Victim Assistance. **16 - 17 November 2016;**
- Sum up lessons learnt through the workshop and consider the possibility of using the workshop as a model for further dialogue with other States with obligations under Article 4, and/or for States that have not joined the Convention (yet) (link with the objective of universalisation) by **31 January 2017;**
- Disseminate lessons learnt to the Coordination Committee by the **January meeting 2017;**
- Update overview of States Parties with obligations under Article 4 and/or States potentially interested in joining the Convention in consultation with and contributing to universalisation and country coalition efforts by the Presidency, the Coordination Committee and ISU by **31 December 2016;**
- Reach out to a few additional States Parties with current obligations under Article 4 and/or States that may be persuaded to join the Convention to discuss the extent of the challenges and key priorities with regards meeting (their) deadlines under Article 4 and explore whether there is an interest in organising a similar workshop to the one mentioned above to build confidence and spur action by **31 April 2017.**

## 4. Expected Outputs by the 7MSP

- One (1) workshop was organized through which:
  - o Dialogue within the Mine Action sector within a given country context was strengthened;
  - o Good practices, but also challenges to reaching Article 4 deadlines were identified;
  - o A list of measures to increase effectiveness of clearance work was proposed;

- Continued progress in cluster munition clearance and continued donor support were encouraged
- Lessons learnt for future similar workshop for other States were identified to improve a country specific approach
- Initial exploration has been conducted on the organisation of similar workshops in the future for other interested states.

**5. Estimated Budget**

To be determined

**6. Strategy Implementers**

- Netherlands and Norway as Coordinators on Clearance and Risk Reduction Education

**7. Potential Implementing Partners**

- Presidency
- CCM Implementation Support Unit
- National Mine Action Authorities
- Operators
- CCM States Parties with obligations under Article 4
- States interested in joining the CCM (but facing possible challenges under Article 4)
- Donor States
- International NGOs / operators