



**Accra Regional Conference on the Universalization of the Convention on Cluster Munitions**  
**CMC Statement on Cooperation and Assistance**  
**Delivered by Albino Forquilha**  
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Globally, the existing cluster munition problem is relatively limited in scope and can be addressed in a short period of time if the level of resources allowed is sufficient. While it is true that victim assistance obligations require a long-term commitment, the CMC has often stated that in most countries, it is possible to complete clearance and stockpile destruction in a few years.

To this end, the cooperation and assistance obligations under Article 6 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions are an essential mechanism to make sure the Convention's objectives are met in the near future. It obliges all States Parties "in a position to do so" to provide cooperation and assistance to other States Parties.

The Cluster Munition Coalition would like to leave you with three short messages on cooperation and assistance.

**First**, we believe all States Parties are in a position to provide some form of assistance under Article 6. Of course financial assistance is a key component and will likely come from nations that have the greatest financial resources. However, assistance can take many other forms. Indeed affected countries have a leadership role to play in sharing good practises, skills, expertise and experience. South-south cooperation is a valuable and essential aspect of this work, and may be extremely beneficial.

For example, achieving stockpile destruction is not only a question of financial assistance. Technical assistance and expertise support can be key to the speedy completion of this obligation for many countries. On victim assistance as well, sharing experiences among affected countries can contribute to a better response to the needs of victims.

In this perspective I inform you that Mexico and Spain, which are co-coordinators of the Convention's Working Group on Cooperation and Assistance, are preparing a guidebook of good practices on cooperation and assistance that will be presented at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the Convention, in September in Oslo, Norway.

Our **second message** is that states in need of assistance should show national ownership and present their needs clearly. This should include the production of a timebound and appropriately costed national plan on how to solve their cluster munition problem. They should also show their commitment to implementation of the convention through the dedication of national capacity and resources as well as a commitment to be full partners in the efficient use of external resources.

States should keep a strong focus on measuring implementation results, through the establishment of baseline values, indicators and targets. They should also monitor and regularly evaluate how the assistance is being used to meet such goals.

Those countries should also provide information on how they have used the assistance they

received, especially on the results they have achieved. Such information would not only help them with future requests, but would also contribute to the collective effort to increase cost-effectiveness and efficiency in access to, and use of, available resources.

Finally, our **third message** is a reminder of the a virtuous circle that can be created on international cooperation. The more States Parties requiring assistance clearly share their needs and the impact of support received, the more it will give guidance to donor states to provide appropriate support. This will in turn encourage affected or stockpiling states that have not yet joined the convention to do so.

Thank you.