

## **REMARKS BY SOUTH AFRICA**

### **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE**

International Cooperation and Assistance is the cornerstone of the Convention as it is key in the implementation of the Convention in particular on issues such as Victim Assistance, Clearance and risk education, Capacity Building, Stockpile Destruction and Universalisation. A number of States Parties particularly those that are highly affected, face challenges regarding the implementation of these key provisions of the Convention.

In this regard, Article 6 on International Cooperation and Assistance provides the legal basis for States to seek and receive assistance in meeting their obligations. Moreover, it sets out parameters and is one of the key provisions that can ensure the full implementation of the Convention. In this connection, International Cooperation and Assistance can therefore serve as an incentive for those who have not yet joined the Convention.

Accordingly, States should work together internationally, regionally and national levels to fulfil obligations of the Convention. International cooperation and assistance is not exclusively about the donors and recipients. All States can work together as equal partners in promoting south-south, north-north, north-south and triangular cooperation. These kinds of cooperation can be done through exchange of data, good practices, expertise, equipment, embarking on joint projects and son on. The national ownership needs to be emphasised as it will ensure success

and sustainability of the projects. We should also continue to encourage those that are in a position to do so, to provide assistance particularly the highly affected States.

With these remarks, I would now open the floor for participants to give us updates on what they are doing, share their experience and what should be done to enhance international cooperation and assistance. This will be followed by questions, comments based on these interventions.

Thank you very much