



**Review Conference of States Parties
to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)**

**First Preparatory Meeting for the First Review Conference
5 February 2015, Geneva**

**Statement by MAG
on the Review of the Vientiane Action Plan**

(Check Against Delivery)

Thank you Madam President.

Many thanks to the Presidency, Coordinators and the Interim ISU for the review paper and the work that has gone into its production. We would like to add particular thanks for the way that consultations were undertaken – MAG feels that this has resulted in a strong document that reflects much of the current thinking and dialogue in the sector.

From MAG's perspective, the themes in the section covering clearance, destruction and risk education reflect those taking place in the operational community and the recommendations cover much of what is now considered good operational practice. As the Co-Coordinators have already stated, the Convention has contributed significantly to new thinking and approaches.

As ever, we are very pleased to see significance attached to survey – both technical and non-technical. We would also like to underline the importance of ensuring that survey and clearance are integrated within operational approaches in the field. We also highlight the importance of efficient, collaborative and evidence-based operational approaches. These include Evidence Point Polygon Mapping (or EPPM, which applies existing operational data), Cluster Munition Remnants Survey (or CMRS, which makes innovative use of technical survey) and also village assessments and consultation.

Madam President, we welcome the emphasis placed on making full use of existing approaches and good practice. We should continue to refine and improve, but stress that our sector already has most of the tools that it needs to succeed and we must focus on their full application.

Turning to the section covering international cooperation and assistance. Again, we agree that the Convention has supported dense cooperation and that, in recent years, this has supported our efforts to focus clearance on areas of genuine contamination and ensure that operations are as efficient as possible. As our work is fundamentally about people, our efforts must also be driven by human impact as well as progress against clearance obligations. We therefore also attach great importance to effectiveness and its measurement; efficiency and effectiveness must work in tandem. We also welcome the inclusion of multi-year support and funding commitments which can support long-term operational planning and gives stability to survey and clearance operations.

Finally Madam President, valuable work has been undertaken by previous Presidencies on the issue of compliance in accordance with Article 4. We believe that further dialogue is important in order to define what constitutes tolerable or acceptable residual risk at the national level.

In closing, we welcome the emphasis throughout the paper on dialogue and cooperation between stakeholders. In MAG's view, this is absolutely vital for our collective progress and success and we attach significant importance to it.

Thank you.

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