



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

Second Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions

Statement under agenda item 8 e) Cooperation and assistance

26 November 2020

Delivered by Mr. Bruno Donat, Chief, Geneva office, UNMAS

Mr. President,¹

I have the pleasure to deliver the following statement on behalf of the United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA).²

Excellencies,

In view of a decrease in funding for mine action activities generally and the scale and potential longevity of the ripple effects of the COVID-19 pandemic for international funding, the importance of this agenda item cannot be overstated. The United Nations welcomes the strong measurable actions on cooperation and assistance contained in the draft Lausanne Action Plan, which will be vital to advance the implementation of the Convention.

In particular, the United Nations supports the strong emphasis placed on national ownership and capacity development and the commitment to establish partnerships at all

¹ Ambassador Felix Baumann, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the Conference on Disarmament and President of the Second Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

² The United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action consists of twelve United Nations Departments and Offices of the Secretariat, specialized agencies, funds and programmes: the United Nations Mine Action Service of the Department of Peace Operations, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and the World Bank are observers.



levels and explore opportunities for cooperation, including international, regional, North-South, South-South, bilateral and trilateral cooperation to this end.

The United Nations advocates that international focus on strengthening national institutions and capacities be geared towards legislative frameworks, identification of national priorities and action plans based on accurate data, upgrading of technical and programme management skills, as well as international resource mobilization. It is equally important to collectively promote the mainstreaming of gender and diversity considerations in national efforts to implement the treaty.

In accordance with the strategic outcome 1 of its Mine Action Strategy 2019-2023, namely to strengthen the protection of individuals and communities from the risks and socio-economic impacts of explosive ordnance, the United Nations supports many States Parties affected by cluster munitions in their efforts to address the threats posed by and the consequences of cluster munitions contamination.

The United Nations often acts as a facilitator for international cooperation and assistance and would like to thank those States funding its programmes that support States affected by cluster munitions in their activities under the Convention. Some affected States Parties continue to face considerable financial difficulties in implementing their obligations. The United Nations therefore encourages all States Parties and other relevant actors to ensure that mine action funding is predictable and sustainable.

Thank you.