



**First Review Conference
to the Convention on Cluster Munitions**

Statement

Cooperation and Assistance

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***Première Conférence d'Examen
à la Convention sur les armes à sous-munitions***

Déclaration

Coopération et assistance

Dubrovnik, le 08.09.2015

Madame President,

Let me thank you as well as Austria and Chile as thematic coordinators for organising today's debate on cooperation and assistance. Cooperation and assistance under the Convention have decisively evolved and can be seen as central pillars of its success. The spirit of partnership that characterises the Convention clearly extends to cooperation and assistance activities.

The section on cooperation and assistance in the draft Dubrovnik Action Plan represents in our view a very strong foundation for our joint efforts in the coming years. It reflects the conclusions drawn from the analysis of strengths and weaknesses in cooperation and assistance within the framework of the Convention. While the strengthening of partnerships and the constructive response to requests of assistance is encouraged in Actions 5.1 and 5.5, this section of DAP also clearly emphasises that the implementation of the CCM is first of all a national responsibility, demanding national ownership and political leadership. In this context, we believe that the relevant Actions emphasising the communication of challenges, the need for evidence based information, ownership, as well as the use of existing tools, cost efficiency and effectiveness are very well drafted and will promote the implementation of the Convention during the forthcoming intersessional period. The particular references to the use of synergies (where appropriate) and the commitment to support the Convention's implementation support are indeed much appreciated.

We believe that with these actions, the measurable results proposed for section 5 of the DAP will be achieved.

Madame President,

I seize the opportunity to emphasise that the provision of assistance has long represented a priority of Switzerland's efforts under the treaty, and it is our intention to sustain this commitment despite financial constraints that have become more accentuated in the recent past. Switzerland will continue to contribute to efforts under the Convention through various measures such as project related financial contributions, the deployment of experts to headquarters and programmes in the field, support to international capacity building and training efforts drawing on the

expertise available, and support to the treaty machinery.

As we have stated on earlier occasions, cooperation and assistance are means to an end, not an end in themselves. They are meant to support the implementation of the Convention. Processes in this area should be as efficient and focused as possible. In our view, future cooperation and assistance activities could also benefit from better coordination among donor States; the informal Mine Action Support Group (MASG) is in our view a very useful platform to this effect. Simultaneously, we also believe that the decisions here in Dubrovnik can be the basis for an even more consistent dialogue between affected States and donor States.

In this sense, we very much look forward to future debates and exchanges in the context of cooperation and assistance.

Thank you, Madame President