



**United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action
First Review Conference of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions**

Statement on International Cooperation and Assistance

Dubrovnik, 10 September 2015

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

The following statement is delivered on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA)¹, comprising 14 United Nations entities involved in mine action.

As a provider of international cooperation and assistance, as well as a facilitator of mine action assistance, the United Nations stresses the importance of this agenda item, which applies to the whole spectrum of obligations under the CCM. International cooperation and assistance is an indispensable mechanism upon which an effective implementation of CCM will depend upon.

Once again, the United Nations encourages all States Parties and other relevant actors to ensure mine action funding is predictable and sustainable. The United Nations supports many of the cluster munitions affected countries in their efforts to address the threats posed by and the consequences of cluster munitions contamination. In many circumstances, it exercises a pivotal role in connecting countries in need and potential donors, as well as facilitating the development of important partnerships, as encouraged by Action 5.1 in the draft Dubrovnik Action Plan.

As stated in the Mission Statement, reflected in the “Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2013-2018, “The United Nations works with affected States to reduce the threat and impact of mines and ERW, including cluster munitions, on peace and security, humanitarian relief, human rights and socio-economic development. It does so in partnership with civil society, the private sector, international and regional arrangements, and donors with an aim to secure levels of prevention and protection for individuals and communities, at which point UN mine action assistance is no longer requested”. The United Nations aims at enhancing this role.

The United Nations acknowledges that some cluster munition-affected States Parties face financial constraints in implementing the CCM provisions and that they have the right to seek and receive assistance, as stated in paragraph 1 of Article 6. This paragraph is cited less frequently than the second paragraph, referring to the obligations of States Parties in a position to provide technical, material and financial assistance, but it is not less important.

Thank you.

¹ The Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) / United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) (Chair), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN Development Programme (UNDP), Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) (Observer), and the World Bank (Observer).