



CCM 10MSP – 30 AUGUST – 2 SEP

LMAC DIRECTOR SPEECH

Mr. President

As this is the first time I am taking the floor, please allow me to congratulate you and the United Kingdom on the presidency of the tenth meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. I also thank you for all the support you have shown to Lebanon.

Excellencies,

Cluster munitions contamination remains a serious challenge to the Lebanon Mine Action Programme (LMAP), particularly for the continual victims caused by mine accidents. In 2021, the amount of victims of cluster munitions was nine, 2 Lebanese and 7 Syrians, all of them boys below the age of eighteen.

The Lebanon Mine Action Program (LMAP) is working based on an integrated strategy taking into account the lessons learned and also according to the plan outlined in the approved extension request ending on May 1, 2026. This plan was accurately and credibly developed after extensive statistics over the past three years prior to submission of the renewal application.

The Lebanon Mine Action Center (LMAC) continues to work in partnership with national and international NGOs to improve productivity to meet targets. In 2021, 1.24 million square meters of land contaminated with 2,418 cluster munitions were destroyed. It is worth noting that the Lebanon Mine Action Program (LMAP) relies more on technical surveys to increase efficiency and effectiveness. By referring to the extension plan, we keep making progress and meeting objectives. A summary of the progress made was presented at the preparatory meeting last May and further details on the work carried out can be found in the Transparency Report under Article VII of the convention, Which Lebanon is committed to providing in a timely manner..

Mr President,

Let me take this opportunity to shed some light on a major challenge that we have been facing for the past year and that appears to be ongoing. We all agree on the importance of funding for mine action programmes. The current world circumstances, with many crises, wars, and increasing humanitarian needs, are putting their weight on national mine action programs, and



clearly has a direct negative impact on Lebanon Mine Action programme. Funding for cluster munitions land released in Lebanon has been reduced by 18% below the specified rate in the extension plan.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

No plan, no matter how elaborate, can be successful without a commitment to allocate the necessary resources. Furthermore, improvements in effectiveness and efficiency cannot compensate for a sharp drop in funds.

Therefore, I am hereby today, raising my voice, to highlight the fact that continued diversion of funds from the Lebanon Mine Action program will certainly result in a request for a new extension, which we do not want, but rather we all strive to avoid.

What we are asking for today is faith in the approved plan, faith in the Lebanon mine action program which has an excellent reputation for management and goal achievement, and a firm commitment to the Lebanese strategy, so that together we can celebrate in 2026. We are sure that by securing small commitments from a number of donors, we are able together to reach the desired goal. This is not only the opinion of the national authority, but also confirmed by our implementing partners in Lebanon.

Mr President,

Lebanon reiterates its commitment to do whatever is necessary to end the suffering of its citizens from the effects of cluster munitions on their lives, and its full commitment to achieve the goals of the convention.

Thank you