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**United Nations Mine Action Service**  
**Eleventh Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions**

**Statement on International Cooperation and Assistance**

*Delivered by Ms. Christelle Loupforest on behalf of UNMAS*

*Wednesday, 13 September 2023*

Mr. President,

Thank you very much for inviting me to describe the role of the United Nations in international cooperation and assistance.

I would like to thank the Netherlands for mentioning the role of the UN in developing international mine action standards. The Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction of James Madison University distributed at the meeting on Monday and also available online has a summary of amendments made to the IMAS in the past two years. I thank the GICHD for their support to the UN in this important standard-setting work for the sector.

I am pleased to inform you that the report of the Secretary-General on assistance in mine action covering the period from August 2021 to July 2023 was just published in the six UN official languages with document number A/78/259. You can also find a description of UNMAS activities in its 2022 annual report available on UNMAS website.

I would like to highlight the work of the UN in humanitarian coordination. We have established a coordination mechanism called Mine Action Area of Responsibility as part of the Global Protection Cluster. It is currently co-coordinated by UNMAS and the Danish Refugee Council. In 2022, 135 partners including 97 national organizations coordinated their mine action activities in 2022 through this mechanism, reaching over 10 million people across



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18 humanitarian emergencies. There is much demand for such coordination support in other countries newly affected by explosive ordnance contamination.

I should also mention that we hosted the 26<sup>th</sup> International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and UN Advisers under the theme “Mine Action Cannot Wait” in Geneva with the generous support of Switzerland. There were more than 350 participants. The report of the meeting and videos of key segments of the meeting are available online at [NDM-UN 26](#).

In concluding, I wish to thank all partners, affected states, donors, the ICRC, and NGOs for their collaboration in support of our efforts to prioritize people most at risk of explosive ordnance and save more lives and limbs.