

MAG Statement

Agenda Item 8 – General Exchange of Views

Check against delivery.

Thank you, Mr. President,

MAG would like to first congratulate with you on your presidency of the 11MSP and leadership over the past 12 months. We also offer our warm welcome to Ms Pamela Moraga on the occasion of her first Meeting of States Parties as Director of the Implementation Support Unit. We look forward to working with you to continue to promote the Convention and implement its vital objectives.

MAG attaches great importance to the Convention on Cluster Munitions as an instrument of humanitarian disarmament. The CCM both contributes to the regulation and ban of indiscriminate means and methods of warfare and provides an essential framework for addressing the impact of cluster munition contamination. MAG works as an implementing partner to many states parties affected by cluster munitions – including Iraq, Lebanon, South Sudan, Laos and Ukraine, as well as affected states not yet party to the Convention such as Cambodia and Vietnam. Our staff witness the massive and prolonged impact of cluster munitions every day in the course of their work; for many of them, this includes their own families, communities, and homes.

The drivers of the Convention are critical in the current global context. At a time of growing food insecurity and drought amidst climate change and fragile economies, we must continue to recognise and address cluster munitions contamination as an obstacle to sustainable development and economic recovery. This year, UNHCR again reported record displacement figures, now approaching 120 million globally. War in Ukraine pushed displacement above 100 million for the first time in 2022. In 2023, a quarter of new displacements were on the African continent. Action is needed to prevent cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war from exacerbating vulnerabilities for displaced people, including delivery risk education for refugees, returnees, and IDPs in all contaminated contexts.

The accession of both South Sudan and Nigeria to the Convention is timely, and where possible should be met with support and outreach under the framework of the Convention. As an implementing partner to both states, we offer our own continued support in the full implementation of all aspects of the Convention and congratulate both new States Parties on this significant step forward. Each new accession reinforces the principles and norms set out in the Convention.

South Sudan's accession is also a great step forward towards the strengthening of national sustainable capacities in the country. Having been in the country now-known as South Sudan since 2004, MAG has always been committed to supporting the development of sustainable national capacity to guarantee a brighter future for all those communities currently affected by cluster munition contamination.

Actions 1 and 22 of the Lausanne Action Plan confirm that national ownership and the development of sustainable national capacity are essential to address cluster munition contamination and its effects now and in the future. This Wednesday, 13th, South Sudan's national capacity and ownership

**11th Meeting of States Parties to
the Convention on Cluster Munitions**

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will be at the centre of a side event co-organised by MAG titled *“Laying strong foundations to address contamination and its effects: the experience of South Sudan”* to which you are all invited.

I would also like to congratulate Bosnia and Herzegovina on declaring Article 4 completion and thank the BHMAG for its continued leadership of the national mine action sector. The elimination of all cluster munitions contamination is an important milestone for those still recovering from the aftereffects of conflict.

Mr. President,

The only way to avoid further suffering caused by cluster munitions is to prevent their future use. We encourage all states parties to prioritise stockpile destruction under Article 3 of the Convention and lend our voices and efforts to calls for universalisation of the Convention.

Thank you, Mr. President.