

## **CMC Statement on International Cooperation and Assistance**

*Convention on Cluster Munitions 12th Meeting of States Parties,  
Geneva, 10-13 September 2024*

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Thank you, Madame President,

International cooperation and assistance is a crucial aspect of the Convention on Cluster Munitions that enables the progress needed towards our ultimate goal of putting an end to the civilian suffering caused by cluster munitions. Article 6 of the Convention reminds us of the right of each affected State Party “to seek and receive assistance,” and the obligation of States in a position to do so to “provide technical, material and financial assistance.”

**Without this cooperation and assistance, we would not have seen the successes of the convention to date, such as a total of nine States Parties now having met their clearance obligations, or the destruction of all the cluster munition stockpiles in States Parties.** These are indeed successes to be celebrated as the result of States Parties working together and providing the relevant support and assistance. However, it remains crucial that States Parties continue to find new ways to support the timely implementation of treaty obligations by all.

The Cluster Munition Monitor records that while some States Parties, particularly Lao PDR, made significant progress in the clearance of cluster munition remnants during 2023, in a few other States Parties, there was little or no progress, often due to lack of funding. The Lausanne Action Plan notes that sustained efforts are required to ensure States Parties complete their clearance obligations as soon as possible, but Monitor data shows only a couple of States Parties are currently on target to meet their obligations. However, with increased financial, technical and material assistance targeted to those who need it, we could see significant progress in several States Parties: Afghanistan, Chad, Germany, Lebanon, Mauritania, and Somalia – could all potentially complete clearance before the 4th Review Conference in 2031. Another area that needs attention is funding and support for victim assistance, which for many years has remained low as a proportion of overall mine action funding. We urge States Parties to allocate more dedicated funds to assist victims of cluster munitions in all regions and countries where there is a need.

Successful cooperation and assistance must be informed by the elaboration of clear mine action plans by affected countries, with regular updates provided on progress and challenges. Donor States must also consider how they can coordinate funding to ensure that the needs of all affected States are met in line with the Treaty obli-

-gations. All parties must strengthen cooperation and discussion, through country coalitions or taking advantage of meetings such as this to share information.

With growing instability and conflict around the globe, the commitment of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions grows ever more important. Meeting obligations under Article 6 is not only an investment in the future of the individuals and communities affected by cluster munitions, but it is also an investment in the convention, demonstrating our clear aim to eradicate these insidious weapons that have no place in modern warfare, and to put an end to the civilian suffering they cause.