

MAG Statement

Agenda Item 10(e)

International Cooperation and Assistance

Check against delivery.

Thank you, Madam President.

As an organisation that works closely with national authorities fulfilling their obligations under the Convention on Cluster Munitions, as well as with the donor community whose funding enables this work, we are highly cognisant of the essential political and operational role of international cooperation and assistance in the function of this Convention. We are all part of the CCM community and, as such, we should continue to work together constructively and with optimism.

The genuine and transparent nature of the extension requests presented on Tuesday was extremely positive, demonstrating the ownership and political will of these states to work towards the fulfilment of their obligations. We welcome the progress showed in the request presented by Laos PDR, with whom MAG has a long-term partnership, and we hope that this positive trend will continue.

We cannot disregard that two of the three presentations indicated how essential international cooperation and assistance are for the fulfilment of their obligations. With regard to Chad, the lack of funding undermines the readiness of the plans in place and the political will to achieve Article 4 completion. Without international support, cluster munitions remnants will remain in the province of Tibesti - not only posing a fundamental threat but also undermining the legitimacy of the CCM as a cooperative multilateral framework.

A multilateral treaty derives its strength from its ability to sustain attention and action on its core thematic objectives in all relevant contexts. This principle is what we hope will continue driving a coordinated approach to international cooperation and assistance.

Sustainable national capacities and their development are essential for the full implementation of this Convention. National authorities play a crucial role in the implementation of the Convention. The many women and men in national authorities hold significant expertise, developed through years of experience. It is essential that this capacity continues to receive support both through allocation of national resources and international cooperation and assistance.

Madam President,

We are increasingly facing complex crises that require all members of the international community to work together breaking silos. In Chad, for example, we are witnessing explosive ordnance being moved by unprecedented flooding caused by unusual rains in many parts of the country, as well as cross-border movement of refugees from the conflict in Sudan and new explosive ordnance contamination resulting from the ammunition depot explosion in N'Djamena that occurred in June. In Lebanon and South Sudan, the presence of explosive ordnance, including cluster munitions,

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undermines the way in which people produce and procure food for themselves and their families. This exacerbates significant food insecurity affecting both the Middle East and East Africa.

We must also reflect on how the Convention on Cluster Munitions can ensure that cluster munition remnants do not obstruct our path towards climate adaptation and climate change responsiveness, leaving no one behind.

This Convention remains a vital instrument that facilitates the creation of the conditions to fulfil the Sustainable Development Goals and realise human rights, in the name of human security. Without sufficient international cooperation and assistance, these objectives cannot be realised.

I thank you, Madam President