



CCM INTERCESSIONAL MEETING – 7-8 APRIL 2025
DIRECTOR SPEECH

Mr. President,

Allow me to extend my sincere congratulations to you and the Republic of the Philippines on assuming the Presidency of the thirteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. It is an honor to provide an update on Lebanon's ongoing extension plan and to present an overview of our forthcoming extension request..

Excellencies,

At a time when the Lebanon Mine Action Center (LMAC) was in the final stages of releasing land contaminated by unexploded ordnance—having successfully cleared over 82% of all recorded contaminated areas in our national database and more than 92% of land contaminated by cluster munitions—we were preparing to transition into the final phase of our exit strategy. However, last year's unexpected and catastrophic events have fundamentally altered this trajectory. Today, we are confronted with new contamination, further complicated by challenges related to rubble clearance. The detonation of previously unknown munitions stockpiles has resulted in the widespread dispersal of unexploded cluster munitions, significantly increasing the risk to communities and requiring comprehensive surveys, detailed assessments, and immediate action to mitigate these emerging threats.

Over the past year, the Lebanon Mine Action Center (LMAC), with the support of UNDP, implementing agencies, and other stakeholders, has held numerous technical workshops to develop and adapt a contingency plan in response to the evolving situation. This plan is being implemented as circumstances allow, with the primary objective of protecting lives. The remarkably low number of accidents and victims after the ceasefire, stands as a testament to the professionalism and dedication of our collective efforts.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

For many years, Lebanon has endured the severe consequences of extensive contamination by cluster munitions. It is a brutal reality to accept that, despite significant progress, we must currently redirect our efforts to address new challenges.



Nevertheless, our commitment to the safety and well-being of our people remains our driving force. The necessary surveys will be completed within this year, and upon their conclusion, a comprehensive plan will be developed to clear all newly identified cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war.

LMAC firmly believes that the strong leadership and expertise we have cultivated, combined with a well-structured strategy, robust operational plans, and the invaluable support of our strategic partners, will enable us to achieve our ultimate goal..

Mr. President,

Finally, it is important to emphasize that LMAC could not have maintained its momentum throughout the years and overcome numerous challenges without the steadfast commitment of its partners. We take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation for the enduring support of all our donors.

Thank you.

