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United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

Convention on Cluster Munitions Intersessional Meeting 2025 Statement under **agenda item 3(c) – Clearance**

Geneva, 7 April 2025

Delivered by Christelle Loupforest, Officer-in-Charge, UNMAS Geneva Office

Mr. President,

The following statement is delivered on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA) comprising the United Nations entities involved in mine action.¹

Excellencies,

The United Nations acknowledges the extension requests submitted under Article 4 of the Convention. These requests reflect the significant challenges that persist in clearing cluster munition remnants and ensuring compliance with treaty obligations.

The United Nations remains committed to supporting these States in fulfilling their clearance commitments and urges that extension requests be accompanied by well-defined, realistic, and adequately resourced work plans.

Mr. President,

The United Nations plays a critical role in coordinating, supporting, developing, and implementing clearance efforts in affected countries.

¹ The United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action consists of twelve United Nations Departments and Offices of the Secretariat, specialized agencies, funds and programmes: the United Nations Mine Action Service of the Department of Peace Operations, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and the World Bank are observers.



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Through capacity-building initiatives, technical assistance and coordination mechanisms, United Nations mine action programmes work closely with national authorities to enhance their ability to meet clearance obligations in heavily contaminated states parties like Lao PDR and Lebanon

The United Nations promotes exchanges of best practices through the development of International Mine Action Standards and provides expertise to support their implementation.

Among the States Parties that submitted extension requests under Article 4, the United Nations is actively involved in strengthening national capacities, including in Afghanistan, Lebanon and Somalia to advance clearance operations efficiently and effectively, while also assisting national authorities to prepare their compliance reports.

In Afghanistan for example, the United Nations provided technical support to the Directorate of Mine Action Coordination and the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan by enhancing survey and clearance operations through the provision of technical training and quality management aligned with international standards. It improves information management systems, supporting evidence-based, data driven planning and sharing detailed hazard maps with partners to support safe operations.

In Somalia, the United Nations supports the national mine action capacity through trainings in explosive hazard awareness, EOD, mobility planning and search capabilities. It also conducts non-technical surveys, through which in 2024 it identified 21 locations measuring 3.1 square kilometres of land identified or confirmed for clearance and 42 locations measuring 63.7 square kilometres of land canceled.

Mr. President,

Despite these efforts, significant challenges continue to impede progress. Security concerns, funding shortages, and access restrictions have threatened the pace of clearance



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operations and the safety of affected communities. Without sustained financial and technical support, many States will struggle to meet their obligations under the Convention.

We therefore call upon donors and partners to increase financial and technical support for clearance operations. Ensuring predictable and multi-year funding will be critical to enabling affected countries to meet their commitments, protect civilians, and allow communities to rebuild safely and sustainably.

The United Nations remains steadfast in its commitment to assisting States Parties in their clearance efforts and advancing the goals of the Convention.

Thank you.

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