

Agenda Item 10(c)

Clearance and destruction of cluster munitions remnants

Statement by MAG

Check against delivery.

Thank you, Mr President,

as this is our statement with a broader scope, I would like to congratulate you, Mr President, for your appointment and your chairing of this thirteen meeting of States Parties.

As highlighted yesterday, in a time of general distrust towards multilateralism, this meeting and the efforts of the whole CCM community, including yourself, the ISU and UNODA, are very refreshing.

With record of cluster munition clearance reported in 2024, MAG with support from its donors is proud as a humanitarian mine action operator to account for 29% of the total land release of cluster munition remnants in 2024.

Survey and clearance are the operations that practically remove the sources of danger and fear that kill, maim, and entrap people and communities all over the world. Survey and clearance are critical to reach a world without cluster munitions and it is imperative to continue perfecting our methodologies and procedures, in line with Actions 6 and 21 of the Lausanne Action Plan.

MAG is committed to constantly improving and learning from the lessons learned from our staff, our partners, and all our colleagues in the sector. MAG is pleased to share that our trial of technical survey dogs continues, with our partner APOPO, and we keep trialling and embedding the use of advanced detection systems in our CMRS procedures, with the aim of reducing the number of false signals and the number of unnecessary excavations, saving resources, energies, and reducing the impact of clearance operations on people and communities.

MAG also constantly aims to minimise the impact of mine action operations on people, communities and the environment, driven by the humanitarian principle of do no harm. In Cambodia, for example, MAG collaborates with Mlup Baitong, a local NGO, to support communities after clearance. In this regard, we welcome Italy and France's working paper on 'Protecting the environment during clearance of cluster munition remnants' and we remain available for the practical implementation of the recommendations included in it.

Mr President,

Survey and clearance to protect civilians in an innovative, sustainable, and environmentally sustainable way require multi-year and reliable funding, which allows the various actors in the sector to undertake research, and test and implement new techniques that increase the effectiveness and efficiency of these operations.

**Thirteen Meeting of States Parties to
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It is also important that funding and assistance to fulfil the obligations enshrined by the CCM are diversified to prevent issues due to the over-dependency on a limited number of donor states.

International assistance is also critical to guarantee that the know-how and expertise developed by national authorities and other stakeholders, especially national and local ones, are not lost. In fact, when assistance is reliable and diversified, mine action capacity becomes not only sustainable but also sharable.

Finally, we would like to conclude by emphasising that despite humanitarian mine action operations remaining necessary now more than ever, prevention is fundamental. The prohibition sets at Article 1 of the CCM remain critical in preventing that new areas are contaminated and new lives affected. For this reason, we welcome Vanuatu's decision to join the CCM community to strengthen the fundamental norms of this Convention.

I thank you, Mr President.