

Agenda Item 9

Analysis of the Article 4 extension request submitted by Lebanon

Statement by MAG

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Thank you Mr President,

with 25 years of operations in Lebanon, we are glad to take the floor to support Lebanon's extension request under Article 4.

Lebanon has frequently showed examples of how the practical implementation of this Convention prevent harm and protect civilians from the dangers and effects of conflict and cluster munition remnants contamination.

In fact, in the recent conflict, Lebanon deployed capacities already established through the implementation of the CCM, including risk education, victim assistance, survey, and emergency clearance. The strong and coordinated reaction of the Lebanese Government, supported by MAG and other partners, is a clear example of the effectiveness of the Convention as a framework for planning and for cooperation.

More generally, MAG daily witness LMAC's willingness to constantly innovate its know-how and expertise to protect civilians and to fulfil Lebanon's obligations under the CCM. In particular, we appreciate how operators and implementers, such as MAG, are listened and their suggestions and inputs on how to improve mine action operations are welcomed by LMAC.

Lebanon's experience is also exemplary in its willingness to share its own expertise and experience with other countries through numerous initiatives, included those involving the regional training school hosted in the country. Had this contribution been met with sustained donor support in previous years, populations displaced by the most recent conflict would not have been at risk from old cluster munition contamination in addition to its new challenges.

In its extension request, Lebanon showed its commitment towards the CCM, its obligations, and the protection of human life and dignity from the dangers and effects of cluster munition remnants. MAG stands firmly behind the Lebanon Mine Action Center in these endeavours and remains committed to supporting Lebanon in its path towards a future free from cluster munitions.

I thank you, Mr. President.