



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

Convention on Cluster Munitions Review Conference 2026

IACG-MA joint statement under agenda item VIII – International Cooperation and Assistance

Mr. President,

I deliver this statement on behalf of the United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action.

Excellencies,

No State should be expected to address the consequences of cluster munitions alone.

The State Parties of the convention and those that are committed to supporting them are a community – connected by shared values and a collective objective.

International cooperation and assistance are fundamental to that objective.

The United Nations welcomes the progress made since the adoption of the Lausanne Action Plan. States Parties have strengthened domestic resource mobilization, shared expertise and lessons learned, and expanded cooperation across regions and between affected countries.

That cooperation matters.

- Last year the **UN General Assembly** passed its biannual resolution on Mine Action.
- In April of this year the United Nations and GICHD convened the 29th International **Meeting of Mine Action National Directors** and United Nations Advisers in Geneva.
 - More than 800 participants from 86 States and territories made it the largest gathering in the meeting's history.
 - At this event National authorities, United Nations entities, civil society and the private sector came together around a common objective: turning commitments into practical results for communities affected by explosive ordnance – included sessions dedicated specifically to Cluster munitions
 - Indeed, members of the UN IACG-MA we were pleased to join the Lao Presidency's Side Event on moving from policy to practice—examining lessons from the Lausanne Action Plan and priorities for the Vientiane Capital Action Plan – a key conversation prior to this meeting.
- In May, building on the 2026 Secretary-General's POC Report, **several side events during the Protection of Civilian Week** sought to raise awareness on the continued harm caused by explosive ordnance, and on the need to strengthen implementation of humanitarian disarmament treaties and declarations, including the CCM.
- In April and June of this year the **Human Rights Council** passed a resolution and then reported on the impact of explosive ordnance on Human Rights, highlighting the far-



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reaching consequences these weapons can have on the rights to life, health, education and an adequate standard of living.

- Just last month the **UN Peacebuilding Commission** held a meeting on mine action as an enabler of peacebuilding, recovery and reconciliation.

Despite clear commitment and international support, significant needs and gaps remain. Assistance is uneven across affected States and as we will hear in later sessions, across the different aspects of the convention.

International funding is appreciated and has been vital to progress to date. However, funding is often short-term and unpredictable. Funding is also highly fluid, responding to crisis prone to leaving long-term and protracted context particularly vulnerable to funding changes. This makes it harder to plan operations, retain skilled personnel and meet Convention obligations. Predictable, multi-year financing is an operational necessity to ensure sustained protection, assistance and inclusion for affected individuals and communities. It is also vital for systemic change – building the capacity, knowledge and skills in national and local actors that are required for long term sustainable impact.

There are significant opportunities for sharing of expertise, tactics and strategies. With several State Members clearing cluster munitions for many decades there is a rich seam of experience that can be harnessed for global impact. There have been successful agreements and exchanges between donors, expert State Parties and those just embarking on their CCM commitments. The United Nations applauds and encourages such approaches.

International cooperation and assistance should be tailored to national priorities and contexts, drawing on and reinforcing national expertise, institutions and systems. Where contamination remains extensive, sustained operational support is required; where States are approaching completion, priorities may increasingly shift towards institutional transition, residual risk management, and ensuring that long term national capacity remains in place; and for new States Parties assistance in long-term implementation planning and structural requirements may be helpful.

International support in advocacy, community, funding and expertise is crucial to progress – but it is only effective when it reinforces nationally led priorities and strengthens national institutions. The objective is not to substitute for national capacity. It is to build it. Together.