



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action
First Review Conference of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions
Statement on Clearance and Destruction of Cluster Munition Remnants and Risk
Reduction Education
Dubrovnik, 9 September 2015

Delivered by Mr. Bruno Donat, Chief, Geneva Office, UNMAS

Madam President,

The following statement is delivered on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA)¹, comprising 14 United Nations entities involved in mine action.

The United Nations commends the five countries² that have met their respective obligations under Article 4.

Article 4 of the CCM goes beyond establishing a deadline for completing clearance of all known cluster munition remnants. In addition to necessary and targeted emergency clearance, surveys should be put in place to identify and ascertain the extent of the problem, and national clearance strategies should be based on these assessments. Planning and delivering non-technical and technical surveys, as well as injury surveillance, are crucial steps in measuring the extent and impact of contamination, as well as ensuring cost-effective use of resources.

Although real progress is being made towards clearance and the release of land and infrastructure contaminated by mines and explosive remnants of war, including cluster munitions, an estimated half of identified hazardous areas in countries and territories with a United Nations mine action presence have not been cleared or released.³

Additionally, risk reduction education and other preventive measures, such as marking and fencing, are essential to preventing deaths and injuries while clearance progresses. The United Nations calls on affected States Parties to adopt community-based approaches in scaling up emergency risk education in affected areas.

While challenges still exist on the safety of humanitarian workers and access to contaminated areas, the United Nations also calls on affected States to fully adopt the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). IMAS is the result of an inclusive technical consultative process led by the United Nations and represents best practice in mine action.

¹ The Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) / United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) (Chair), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN Development Programme (UNDP), Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) (Observer), and the World Bank (Observer).

² Albania, Grenada, Mauritania, Norway and Zambia

³ Data and analysis from the Mechanism for Monitoring and Evaluation for "The Strategy of the United Nations for Mine Action 2013-2018."



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IMAS is not static and is updated regularly, thus giving the necessary flexibility to adapt to emerging contexts and technological and methodological developments. This was recognized by the negotiators of the CCM who agreed to include a specific reference to IMAS in paragraph 3 of Article 4.

The United Nations highlights the continued relevance of paragraph 4 in Article 4, which encourages States Parties that have used cluster munitions in the past to provide technical, financial and human resources assistance to facilitate identification, marking, clearance and destruction of cluster munitions, as well as to provide information on past use of cluster munitions. The United Nations calls on former users of cluster munitions to join the CCM. This clause is set to increase in relevance in coming years as they do so.

Madam President,

To conclude, it is important to stress that all states continue to be bound by their obligation under international human rights law to protect life. This implies that clearance should be completed as soon as possible, whether they are States Parties or not to the CCM.

Thank you.