



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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**Fourth Meeting of States Parties
of the Convention on Cluster Munitions**

Statement by

SWITZERLAND

Co-operation and assistance

Lusaka, 13 September 2013

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Mr. President

Co-operation and assistance are in our view of crucial importance for the implementation of the convention. As Switzerland expressed earlier, we share conclusions that in light of the increasingly scarce resources available, it is important that the means are utilized in a coordinated, coherent and complementary manner.

Switzerland's efforts in assistance are guided by its whole of government strategy covering the period 2012-2015, a strategy which includes not only cluster munitions but also antipersonnel mines and other explosive remnants of war. The strategy is based on the relevant international and legally binding instruments. We share the views expressed by the co-coordinators and the presidency that co-operation and assistance should rely on and take into account long term national plans developed by recipient States. The display of ownership by building national capacity is pivotal for us. It appears to us also very important that affected States seeking assistance communicate in a structured and transparent way about their needs and that a substantive dialogue is developed between recipient and donor states.

In this context, reporting plays a key role in the provision of assistance. Switzerland bases its funding decisions, *inter alia*, on the transparency reports provided under article 7. Precise reports providing comparable data and both quantifying and qualifying the remaining challenges facilitate effective resource allocation.

I would also like to seize this opportunity to stress that Switzerland places great importance on the inclusion and the mainstreaming of gender aspects in its decision to support projects. We are convinced that this aspect should be further enhanced by promoting the inclusion of gender disaggregated data and aspects of gender mainstreaming into project design, monitoring and evaluation. Experience shows that gender aware programming is contributing to the efficiency and the effectiveness of our common endeavors.

Thank you, Mr. President