



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

Sixth Meeting of States Parties to the **Convention on Cluster Munitions**

(5 – 7 September 2016)

Statement on International Cooperation and Assistance

Geneva, 7 September 2016

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

Mr. President,^{1 2}

The following statement is delivered on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA) comprising the United Nations entities³ involved in mine action.

The United Nations supports intensified regional and international cooperation, including through triangular cooperation, South-South cooperation, public-private partnerships, as well as by sharing national experiences, best practices, resources and technology to implement the Convention.

Through the Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2013-2018, a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mechanism to assess progress in the implementation of its strategic objectives was committed to and established. Some 25 countries and territories in which the United Nations supports mine action, including some affected by cluster munitions, have participated in data collection.

The following are some findings from the latest round of this initiative:

- Both civilian and overall casualty rates from mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) have fluctuated across the data collection rounds in 2014 and 2015, varying between 0.19 and 0.35 casualties due to mines/ERW per million people per month. As in previous rounds of data collection, men and boys, as well as civilians, were shown to be disproportionately impacted.

¹ Ambassador Henk Cor van der Kwast, Ambassador at large, Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the Conference on Disarmament

² Coordinators of the Working Group on Cooperation and Assistance: Austria and Iraq

³ 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).



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- Mine action programmes supported by the United Nations report that increasing proportions of contaminated land and infrastructure have been identified, cleared, and returned back to communities. Cumulatively, over 8.5 million explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) spot tasks have been completed, with essentially the average number of completed EOD spot tasks per country nearly doubling from the second to the fourth rounds of data collection.
- In 2015 alone, mine risk education (MRE) programmes directly reached over 1.2 million additional people in 23 countries and territories participating in the M&E Mechanism. Cumulatively, 36.6 million people have received in-person MRE in those countries, representing 10 per cent of the total population of countries in which the United Nations supports mine action.⁴
- Findings from the capacity assessment indicate a potential opportunity for South-South cooperation in areas of coordination. Injury surveillance is such a case, with 14 countries reporting at least basic capacity in place, while five indicate a need for increased capacity. This suggests that the countries that have high and independent capacity in these areas could potentially provide assistance to their peers that report basic, moderate, or a need for enhanced capacity.
- Nonetheless, data from the capacity assessment indicates that the United Nations continues to work in contexts with significant national capacity challenges. In the fourth round of data collection, victim assistance, the procurement of mine action services, and resource mobilization are the areas of lowest assessed capacity and also the areas most frequently identified as in need of improved capacity, demonstrating a positive demand effect. Encouragingly, respondents report stronger capacity in advocacy than before, with 72 per cent (16 countries) reporting basic, moderate or good capacity in place, and three reporting independent capacity in place.

Mr. President,

⁴ The M&E Mechanism defines a direct beneficiary as someone who attends an in-person Mine/ERW Risk Education session of any kind (lesson, presentation, briefing, training, receive a door-to-door visit, attend a child friendly space, or similar) provided by an educator of any kind (teacher, member of a non-governmental organization, religious leader, community member/leader, police or military officer, or other).



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Member States, the United Nations and other actors gathered recently in Istanbul for the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS). At this monumental Summit, a number of States and other stakeholders expressed commitments in support of mine action.

The meetings of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions represent a good platform for the reaffirmation of commitments for mine action made during the WHS, and the United Nations encourages states to seize this opportunity to do so.

Thank you.