



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

Statement

Cooperation and Assistance

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***Septième Assemblée des Etats Parties
à la Convention sur les armes à sous-munitions***

Déclaration

Coopération et assistance

Genève, le 5.9.2017

Miss President,
Excellencies,
Dear colleagues,

Please allow us at the outset to thank Australia and Iraq for the preparation of today's discussion on the status of, progress and challenges in the implementation of Article 6 of the Convention. Cooperation and assistance are of utmost importance for the implementation of the Convention. Only joint and coordinated efforts between affected States, donor States, and international, regional and non-governmental organisations will lead us to a successful realisation of our goal: a world free of cluster munitions and no new victims.

We would like to seize this opportunity to briefly report on Switzerland's contributions as a donor state. Switzerland continues its efforts aimed at alleviating the risks posed by mines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war in numerous countries. It currently supports, as part of its humanitarian, peace and development policies, projects in several countries such as Cambodia, Colombia, Libya, Mali and Myanmar, and seconds an average of ten specialists to UN mine action programmes.

Local capacity-building was once again a priority that led our activities. Switzerland would like to reiterate the need to gain a better understanding of the challenges related to the implementation of the convention faced by States Parties. Indeed, only a clear picture of the needs will ensure that resources are allocated effectively and efficiently.

At the same time, Switzerland continues its policy work in multilateral forums and through bilateral contacts, where priority is given to the creation and development of political processes aimed at promoting mine action.

Mister President,

Switzerland's engagement is rooted in the firm belief that mine action remains vitally important in paving the way for peace and development, and contributes greatly towards the attainment of the goals that we have set ourselves and are contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Thank you.