

**CMC Statement on International Cooperation and Assistance
Convention on Cluster Munitions Intersessional Meetings**
Geneva, 16 April 2013



Mr. President,

Today and during the week, we have heard States Parties and others describe good progress on Articles 3 and 4. These results depend on a well-functioning implementation of Article 6. And, in turn, good progress on implementation tells us how well cooperation and assistance is working.

Some highlights for us include:

- More and more donors using multi-annual financing mechanisms, at least within the limits of their own financial systems.
- Good support to States Parties in need of assistance in general, especially for Articles 3 and 4 (Laos and Lebanon for clearance, Moldova and Macedonia for stockpile destruction)
- Emerging non-financial cooperation and assistance, sharing of good practices and expertise.

However, despite these positives we still see gaps in funding and inefficiencies that, if addressed, could facilitate even better implementation. As expert NGOs, we urge you, affected States Parties and donors alike, to include us in the development of effective strategies. Mine action is at its best when partnerships between donors, affected states and NGOs are established to strategically solve challenges in an agreed-upon manner and timeframe.

Even if the affected states own the cluster munitions problem in their countries, NGOs can and will provide expertise, capacity and practical and efficient solutions, to the affected governments in areas such as survey and clearance, victim assistance, stockpile destruction, data management and reporting. For example, some organizations work on alternative and cost-efficient solutions to stockpile destruction, and this expertise, has already successfully helped, several countries, destroy their stockpiles. NGOs can also act effectively as a facilitator between States Parties undertaking clearance, helping bring together national authorities from states with similar challenges.

We know that donors in some cases also work closely with affected states to ensure the most effective approaches are used to fulfill convention obligations. We would like to urge all states and others giving support to engage in such a close partnership – not just to ensure their funds or other support, but with a broader goal of ensuring rapid implementation of the Convention.

We appreciate the emphasis the coordinators put on Victim Assistance and stockpile destruction for the technical workshop, since it appears these areas have indeed received less attention than clearance from donors. On victim assistance (as we said previously in the week), we understand the need to increasingly integrate funding through broader programs. However, we would like to emphasize the need in the short term for donors to ensure such programs can adequately reach cluster munitions survivors, especially those living in remote areas that have not yet benefited from development programs.

Finally, we would again like to re-emphasize the three main messages CMC has given since before the treaty entered into force:

- *All States Parties are “in a position to do so”* – Assistance is not only a question of financial resources from traditional donors; affected countries have a leadership role to play in sharing good practices, skills, expertise and experience, with south-south cooperation key to successful results.
- *We need to see results* – New commitments of funding are also needed to help states implement their CCM obligations in addition to any ongoing related work. Seeing new funding, technical assistance and other new projects is essential to implementation and will in addition continue to promote universalization of the convention.
- *This can be done* – Globally, the existing cluster munitions problem is relatively limited in scope and clearance and stockpile destruction can be addressed in a short period of time. On clearance, even for some of the heavily affected countries a substantial improvement in approach to survey and clearance would bring impressive results on the ground within a decade.

Thank you.