



**United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action
(IACG-MA)
Intersessional Meeting of the Convention on Cluster Munitions
Geneva 15-18 April 2013**

Tuesday 16 April 2013

Statement on Universalization

**Delivered by
on behalf of the IACG-MA**

Mr.Coordinator (*Ghana and Portugal*),

I deliver the following statement on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action (IACG-MA), comprising the 14 United Nations Departments, Agencies, Funds, and Programmes involved in mine action.

At the outset, the United Nations would like to congratulate Andorra, Peru, Australia, Nauru, Chad and Liechtenstein for their accession to the Convention on Cluster Munitions since the Third Meeting of States Parties (3MSP), bringing the number of accessions to 81. While not contaminated by cluster munitions, both Australia and Peru possess stockpiles of cluster munitions. The United Nations hopes that both countries will comply with their Article 3 obligations on a timely manner.

At the same time, the active participation of 31 Non-States Parties to the last 3MSP and 37 to this Intersessional meeting demonstrates the continued deep interest of a large number of States have in joining the Convention. It is our hope that this bodes well for additional ratifications in the future. We look forward to hearing more from these States about the progress being made in this regard.

Recently, on the occasion of the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, the United Nations Secretary-General, once again called for universal adherence to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. The United Nations welcomes all advocacy efforts for the universalization of this important Convention, including those from the Coordinators and the Universalization Working Group, as well as by the CMC, and ICRC.

We also welcome the initiative undertaken by Palau in October last year to convene a regional workshop for Pacific nations on “*The implementation of the Pacific Islands Forum Regional UXO Strategy*;”. The United Nations is further encouraged by the regional conferences on universalization being planned for later this year by the governments of Togo (in cooperation with Ghana and Zambia) and by Chile.

The United Nations is pleased to see that the President-designate to the 4MSP, Zambia, will target its Presidency on the promotion of universalization to the CCM worldwide. The United Nations takes every opportunity to advocate for the universalization of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Field operations of IACG-MA members also undertake a significant advocacy role for the Convention, particularly in countries contaminated by the presence of cluster munitions remnants and countries with stockpiles of cluster munitions. In addition, at headquarters level, UNDP continues to take an active role in promoting the universalization of the Convention by providing technical expertise and assistance to States convening many of the conferences dedicated to universalization of the CCM in its current capacity as the Interim ISU to the CCM.

Thank you Mr.. Coordinators,

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