



Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)

CCM Intersessional Meeting 15 -18 April 2013

Cooperation and Assistance

Geneva, 16 April 2013

Madame / Mister Coordinator

My Delegation would like to thank Sweden and Mexico for their efforts in taking the issue of cooperation and assistance forward and for the preparation of today's session. We would also like to thank them for the opportunity they provided to exchange experiences during yesterday's technical workshops, which was in our view a very valuable exercise.

Swiss activities in the field of cooperation and assistance are guided by its 2012-2015 mine action strategy. This strategy, which rests on a whole-of government approach, outlines the main principles and priorities of our engagements pertaining to cluster munitions, together with anti-personnel mines and explosive remnants of war in general.

Regarding the various pertinent questions that the coordinators have raised in their letter of April 3, my delegation would like to stress that it fully shares their view that co-operation and assistance does not only entail the provision of financial resources. We are fully convinced – and this is reflected in our national strategy - that a participatory, needs-oriented approach, based on a dialogue between donor States and affected states that takes into account different views, is the most promising way forward. In fact, capacity-building within particular projects and programmes, including the deployment of experts for specific engagements, is a corner-stone of our engagement.

We also find it particularly important that we develop the necessary instruments to measure progress, learn lessons and improve our assessment of the impact of projects on the ground. “Fund and forget” is not an option. This is essential if we intend to act in as effective a manner as possible and to make a difference on the ground. It has become gradually more evident that we need to fully identify the impact, politically and on the ground. This is only possible with close cooperation and a degree of trust, which allows for frank exchanges on what works and what should be improved.

And last but not least, I would like to refer to the session on reporting of this morning: Reporting plays a key role in the provision of assistance. This is true for all levels: for the national reporting in the framework of the conventions, but also for the reporting on specific programmes and projects. For us, transparent and frank reports are a basis for dialogue as well as for decisions. As we have mentioned on various occasions: A precise reporting providing comparative data and both quantifying and qualifying the remaining challenges facilitate the resource allocation by donor countries.

Madame and Mister Coordinator

Switzerland is firmly committed to the Vientiane Action Plan and to the objectives therein, which the States Parties agreed upon. In our view, the Vientiane Action Plan serves as an excellent guiding instrument for our common endeavours, particularly also with regard to international cooperation and assistance. As we are nearing mid-point to the next review conference, it is important that we take stock of what we have achieved so far and what remains to be done.

Switzerland will continue to closely follow the discussions on co-operation and assistance and remains committed both to share the experiences it has made and to learn from those of others.

Thank you very much.