

## International Cooperation and Assistance/ Art 6

Chair,

Article 6 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) obliges all States Parties “in a position to do so”<sup>1</sup> to provide cooperation and assistance to other States Parties. Many states have already spent many years clearing their land of cluster munitions or providing assistance to victims. For such states, Article 6 is designed to facilitate, accelerate and enhance these efforts.

The CMC wants to address four key topics that we believe will assist the successful implementation of the Convention.

First, the CMC believes that all States Parties are “in a position” to provide assistance given the wide range of assistance that can be given. Financial assistance for specific activities like clearance, victim assistance and destruction of stockpiles is a key component of Article 6, and this will likely come from nations that have the greatest financial resources. But cooperation and assistance can also take many other forms, including providing technical assistance and sharing expertise, which a broad group of states can offer. South-south or south-north cooperation needs to be encouraged and recognised as a valuable and essential aspect of this work so that the good practices, skills, expertise and experience of affected states can be promoted and shared. The planned Working Group on International Cooperation and Assistance should become a forum for real discussions on cooperation and assistance, in all such forms and shapes.

Second, new funding needs to be set aside for stockpile destruction, clearance and victim assistance under the CCM framework. The Cluster Munition Monitor reports that very few donors disaggregate funding figures between assistance for CCM-specific activities and other related work. While we appreciate that breaking down such information may not always be simple, aggregated data makes it hard to understand trends. We ask that in the interest of gaining the best possible picture of assistance given in support of the convention, donors should do their best to disaggregate reporting between CCM, Mine Ban Treaty, or other related funding.

Third, cluster munition-affected States Parties seeking international assistance should assert national ownership by clearly demonstrating their needs, including producing a time-bound and appropriately costed national plan on how to solve their cluster munition problem. Clearance, victim assistance, and other activities should also be indicated as priorities in national development plans or poverty reduction strategies in order for states to qualify for certain types of assistance.

In addition, affected states should show their commitment to implementation of the convention through the dedication of national resources, as well as a commitment to be full partners in the efficient use of external resources. States Parties should keep a strong focus on measuring implementation results, through the establishment of baseline values, indicators, targets and milestones for efficiency, effectiveness and impact. They should also monitor and regularly evaluate how the assistance is being used in terms of meeting such goals. In most cases, states also do not need to invest in creating new structures to implement the Convention but should instead make use of existing structures, plans and methods, as encouraged by Vientiane Action Plan Action 13.

---

<sup>1</sup> Article 6(2), Article 6(4) to 6(9).

Fourth, the problem of cluster munitions *can* be solved in most countries within a short period of time if increased resources are made available. Indeed, it is possible for most of the world's cluster munition-affected states to clear their territory of cluster munition remnants in less than ten years. NGO operators have developed and tested good survey methodology in the field that can map the problem accurately, and clearance methodologies have been proven in the field to secure a cost-efficient and effective release of land. Even in heavily contaminated areas, ten years of clearance can provide impressive results, provided the levels of focus and resources are sufficient. Stockpile destruction also does not have to be as expensive and technologically difficult a task as some have suggested. Organisations have researched and developed technologically relevant and cost-efficient alternatives to industrial destruction that would be appropriate for many developing states, especially those with limited stockpiles.

In other words, the CMC believes that within this community, there exists sufficient capacity, experience and technology to complete the work required by the Convention, but that increased provision of resources will be needed to meet states' additional duties. If cooperation and assistance is focused directly on solving the problem and not creating unneeded new structures or technologies, it should be entirely possible for states to meet such obligations in a timely and efficient manner.