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United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

Eleventh Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions

Statement on Victim Assistance

Geneva, 12 September 2023

Delivered by UNMAS

Mr. President,

The following statement is delivered on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA)¹, comprising United Nations entities engaged in mine action.

The United Nations would like to thank the coordinators on Victim Assistance, Austria and Chile, for their work towards the implementation of Article 5 of the Convention.

In the words of the United Nations Secretary-General, “*there are more than one billion people with disabilities in the world. Realizing their rights is a matter of justice and investment in our common future. It is also central to realizing the core promise of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind.*”

To call attention to the rights and needs of victims, in December 2022 the United Nations appointed Mr. Giles Duley as Global Advocate for Persons with Disabilities in Conflict and Peacebuilding situations. Mr. Duley will complement the work of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and will advocate for the

¹ The Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA) brings together United Nations entities involved in mine action. Twelve United Nations Departments and Offices of the Secretariat, specialized agencies, funds and programmes are members of the IACG-MA: the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) of the Department of Peace Operations (DPO), the Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and the World Bank are observers.



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universalization of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

In early 2023, the UN endorsed an International Mine Action Standard on Victim Assistance, which was developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders, and which clarifies the roles and responsibilities of mine action actors in victim assistance. We hope it will be a useful tool in achieving the objectives of the Convention.

Over one third of United Nations mine action programmes are engaged in victim assistance services. They most frequently provide orientation and referrals, and when funding is available, complement national efforts to facilitate access to a broad range of services and develop victim assistance policies.²

The United Nations urges Member States to provide appropriate care and ensure the full and dignified reintegration of victims in society, including through the dedication of resources and enhancement of capacities.

Thank you.

² Data is drawn from the [monitoring and evaluation \(M&E\) mechanism](#) of the United Nations Mine Action Strategy 2019-2023.