



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

**Third Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions
Oslo, 11 September 2012**

Statement on General Exchange of Views

**Delivered by Ms. Agnès Marcaillou, Director, UNMAS
on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action (IACG-MA)**

Mr. President,

The following statement is delivered 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.

I would like to echo the message of the Secretary-General in reiterating the full support of the United Nations towards the universalisation of the Convention and the full implementation of its provisions. Forty States are currently receiving mine action support from the United Nations. Indeed, the CCM has provided a solid framework to the UN collaboration with eleven States Parties¹ to the Convention working to clear land, provide support to communities affected by these weapons, and destroy stockpiles. The CCM further guides the work of the United Nations with non-States Parties that are cluster munitions-affected or that possess cluster munitions stockpiles. Because the UN faces on a daily basis the devastating effects these deadly weapons have on communities long after they have been used, our commitment to prevent new victims and to address the needs in a gender-sensitive manner of those already affected is even stronger.

The United Nations would like to thank donors as well as the rest of the international community for their support. Their financial and political support remains critical to eradicating the threat posed by cluster munitions to civilian populations and to long-term development prospects. The UN continues to rely on such support for its programmes, including in tackling unexploded ordnance and ERW clearance, risk reduction through risk education, advocacy and other measures, stockpile destruction, and assistance to survivors and victims. This support is also crucial to ensure the destruction of stockpiles, worldwide, thus eradicating forever the threat of their later use.

The UN achievements also stem from its close-knit partnership with civil society organizations. The UN supports their work and they help the various components of the UN system reach out to communities and deliver assistance and advocacy on our behalf.

¹ Afghanistan, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger and Senegal.

This partnership is evidenced by daily interaction and mutual support; this is possible because of the trust we have in each other and, because the UN, civil society, affected States and the donor community share the same determination, the same agenda and the same conviction.

Only with collective action and true partnership will we be able to save lives.

Mr. President, distinguished delegates,

Field-based evidence underscores that any use of cluster munitions causes indiscriminate killing and maiming of civilians both during and after conflict; it prevents thousands of people from returning to their homes; and it ruins livelihoods, as land is unusable, and income is lost.

It is the view of the UN that reports of use of cluster munitions must be considered with utmost attention and seriousness and must be investigated immediately. The UN is also of the view that allegations of use demand clarification.

Whether they are parties to the CCM or not, we call on all parties to conflict to refrain from the use of cluster munitions; we also call on those States who have not yet done so to accede to the Convention without delay.

Mr. President, distinguished delegates,

The Convention on Cluster Munitions constitutes a remarkable tool to put an end to the unacceptable harm resulting from the use of these weapons and considerable progress has already been achieved towards this end. Nevertheless, cluster munitions are not the only pernicious explosive weapon in use today. The current state of the world makes it clear that there is a need to tackle the devastating humanitarian impact of all explosive weapons in populated areas.

As the Secretary-General noted in his report earlier this year on the protection of civilians in armed conflict², while the use of certain explosive weapons in populated areas may, in some circumstances, fall within the confines of international law, their humanitarian impact, both short and long-term, can be disastrous.

We would like to reiterate the call from the Secretary-General in urging parties to conflict to refrain from using explosive weapons with a wide-area impact in densely populated areas. The UN supports further consideration of this issue as well as further data collection and analysis.

Mr. President

Speaking as 'One UN', we look forward to a fruitful conference, the meaningful participation by all and we offer you our full support for a successful outcome.

² S/2012/376

Thank you for your attention.