



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

**Fourth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions
Lusaka, 12 September 2013**

Statement on Transparency Measures

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

Mr. President,

I am delivering the following statement on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action (IACG-MA), comprising the 12 United Nations Departments, Agencies, Funds, and Programmes involved in mine action.

The United Nations appreciates the feedback from the Coordinator for Reporting (Belgium) on the status of the national transparency reports. The United Nations commends the States parties that are complying with their reporting obligations, as well as those states that have submitted voluntary transparency reports, such as *Canada, Democratic Republic of Congo and Palau*.¹

However, the United Nations is concerned for the significant decrease in the rate of reporting this year and acknowledges the challenge to improve the quality of the reports. We welcome the initiative of the Coordinator to create an informal Contact Group on Article 7 Reporting to analyze the obstacles that some States Parties find in submitting their reports. The United Nations is currently providing assistance in mine action in twenty States Parties and signatories and therefore stands ready to support and contribute to the work of the Contact Group.

The United Nations is of the strong view that national reporting under a humanitarian disarmament treaty such as the Convention on Cluster Munitions is more than a mere treaty obligation. It is also a confidence building measure and a monitoring tool, as well as an important information instrument that could encourage further international cooperation and assistance, including through the United Nations. Good reporting could foster earlier and more effective mine action interventions, and ultimately contributes to save lives and secure livelihoods for development.

In brief,

¹Lusaka Progress Report, Annex 1.

The United Nations encourages States parties to redouble their efforts to ensure full compliance with Article 7 and also provide substantive information on needs, plans and progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Vientiane Action Plan. This will facilitate the provision by the United Nations and others of adequate and timely assistance.

While fully recognizing that States parties are ultimately responsible for compliance with obligations under Article 7, the United Nations commits once again to do its utmost to assist States parties to submit relevant good quality transparency reports in a timely manner.

Thank you.