

CMC Statement on on International Cooperation and Assistance

CCM 2RC, 25-27 November 2020



Thank you, Mr. President,

The Cluster Munition Coalition aligns itself with the statement delivered earlier by Humanity and Inclusion on behalf of the Gender Working Group, which we are also a member.

Cooperation and assistance is at the core of the implementation of the convention.

It is an obligation for all states, in a position to do so, to contribute funds, expertise, equipment, or any other type of support to those in need. It is a right for each affected state to receive adequate support to eradicate the threat and harm of cluster munitions and to ensure the rights and needs of victims are met and barriers removed.

That partnership between states requesting assistance and those providing it - is key. It is a decisive and strategic investment in making the vision and commitments of the convention a reality.

Donors designate very few of their funded projects as activities related to cluster munitions only, complicating the effort to report accurately on the amount of funding related to the convention. Still the *Cluster Munition Monitor 2020* finds that lack of funding has affected provision of victim assistance and access to essential services; risk education has been receiving relatively little resources over the years; and many States Parties with clearance obligations cited lack of financial assistance as the main challenge to timely completion.

In sum, needs and gaps in the provision of assistance available are still considerable, and we have yet to fully assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our work.

As we are to define our efforts for the next five years, let's look at *how* we can collectively improve the mobilization of resources. The draft LAP sets out some promising leads.

For states requesting assistance: firstly, coherent and detailed planning is indispensable to address the situation on the ground. This should be based on existing national capacity and inclusive of perspectives of affected communities and diverse groups. Next, regular information on progress and remaining challenges are crucial to know where we stand. And there is an easy tool to do so: Article 7 transparency reports. Let's make a better use of these!

For donors and service providers: exhaustive reporting of assistance provided to support all pillars of mine action, disaggregated by sector, would greatly enhance the understanding of resources available, existing gaps, and inform how these can be filled. Donors should also help facilitate the links between humanitarian mine action and the development framework.

Donors should help facilitate the links between HMA, development and the rest of the nexus and operators should attempt to finance their programming across these different funding pots. This would enable the sector to deliver on increasingly broader-than-HMA outcomes. We encourage donors to internally coordinate with their other departments to facilitate the implementation of the nexus.

For *all* parties involved: systematic and regular interaction should be strengthened to guarantee assistance is efficient and to explore synergies with other sectors. Platforms such as country coalitions offer the right environment for such discussions and should be encouraged.

We also take this opportunity to thank the coordinators- the Netherlands and Montenegro- for their work done during this period, including in regard to the upcoming brochure on country coalitions.

We are all responsible for creating conditions in which there are no longer cluster munitions and all victims receive the support they need. Cooperation and assistance is a critical part of the equation. Let's ensure we give ourselves the means to reach our common goal!