

**CMC statement on International Cooperation and Assistance
Second Meeting of States Parties, Convention on Cluster Munitions
Beirut, Lebanon
16 September 2011**



Mr. President,

Article 6 of the CCM obliges all States Parties “in a position to do so” to provide cooperation and assistance to other States Parties.

Many states have already spent many years clearing their land of cluster munitions and providing assistance to victims. For such states, Article 6 is designed to facilitate, accelerate and enhance these efforts.

CMC wants to address three key topics that we believe will assist the successful implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions in this regard.

First, all States Parties are “in a position” to provide assistance. Cooperation and assistance can take many forms. Clearly, financial assistance for funding activities like clearance, victim assistance and destruction of stockpiles is a key component, and will likely come from nations that have greater financial resources.

There are also different types of technical assistance and in-kind assistance. South-south cooperation needs to be encouraged and recognised as a valuable and essential aspect of this work. The good practices, skills, expertise and experience of affected states represent in themselves a contribution to cooperation and assistance, which should be promoted. The planned working group on international cooperation and assistance needs to quickly become a forum for real discussions on cooperation and assistance, in all forms and shapes. This should include discussions on how assistance can be used in most efficient and effective ways.

Second, cluster munition-affected States Parties seeking international assistance should assert national leadership by clearly demonstrating their needs, including producing a time-bound and appropriately costed national plan on how to solve their cluster munition problem. They should also show their commitment to implementation of the convention through the dedication of national capacity and resources as well as a commitment to be full partners in the efficient use of external resources. It is important for affected states to create an environment in the country where funds are not being wasted, where operators do not have to wait idly for MOUs, importation of equipment, visas for the staff, and other delays, due to red tape in a country.

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 their assistance is being used in terms of meeting such goals. The same goes for other stakeholders, like NGO operators and the UN.

Thirdly, other than the long-term requirements for victim assistance, the problem of cluster munitions *can* be solved in most countries within a short period of time if sufficient 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-year deadline prescribed by the Convention. Civil society has 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 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, CMC believes that we have the capacity, experience and technology to complete the work of clearance and stockpile destruction. Cooperation and assistance should therefore be focused and directed at solving the problem and not be spent on developing layers of bureaucracy or on conducting time-consuming research that do not add value.

Ultimately, the convention's success will depend in large part on whether States Parties with a demonstrated need are receiving adequate assistance in a manner that helps them get the work done quickly and effectively.

Thank you.