



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

Second Preparatory Meeting of States Parties for the First Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions

Statement on the Political Declaration for Adoption at the First Review Conference

Geneva, 24 June 2015

Delivered by Mr. Bruno Donat, Chief, Geneva Office, UNMAS

Madam Chair,

The following statement is delivered on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA)¹, comprising 14 United Nations entities involved in mine action.

The United Nations considers the draft the Croatian Presidency has circulated for discussion today is a strong one, and provides a good basis for the final political declaration.

First, the draft Declaration, from its very first sentence is reflective of the collective support and commitment of States, the United Nations and other international organizations as well as the ICRC and other civil society organizations with regard to the CCM. It is clear from a legal perspective that only States are parties to the CCM. Nevertheless, the United Nations commits itself to undertake every effort in support of the universalization of the norm contained in the CCM and of its effective implementation.

Second, the draft Declaration strongly condemns every use of cluster munitions, regardless of the perpetrator. The United Nations has condemned the use of cluster munitions in many instances in recent years. It will continue to do so, and therefore supports the inclusion of such a condemnation in the text of the Declaration.

The following are a few comments on how the text of the Declaration may be improved in terms of consistency. The text could add some language indicating the United Nations reaffirms its commitment to the CCM, and will accompany States Parties in fulfilling their obligations and in implementing the commitments set up in paragraph 9 of the Declaration.

Also, you may consider amending paragraph 9, subparagraph (e), along the following lines: “Work towards a world free of cluster munitions, as well as of the human rights abuses, suffering, casualties and negative socio-economic impacts they cause”.

Lastly, in such a political declaration, reference ought to be made to the fact that the Secretary-General is the depository of the convention.

¹ The Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) / United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) (Chair), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN Development Programme (UNDP), Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) (Observer), and the World Bank (Observer).



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The United Nations is pleased to further follow-up with the President Designate on any matter regarding the key outcome documents of the First Review Conference.

I thank you.