



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 National Implementation 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 expresses its appreciation to the Coordinator (New Zealand) for the presentation on the status and activities regarding this important obligation and to those States parties that have reported on their progress in the implementation of Article 9.

The United Nations acknowledges the scope and relevance of questions raised by the Lusaka Progress Report regarding obstacles to the swift adoption of national legislation which would give effect to the Convention's provisions.

The United Nations is of the view that States drafting legislation should remain mindful that Article 19 of the Convention is unequivocal, stating that "the Articles of this Convention shall not be subject to reservations." As such, the United Nations would like to strongly urge all States parties or aspiring States parties to ensure that legislation they adopt fully reflects both the letter and the spirit of this important Convention. It is critical that national legislation prohibit all actions that could, in any way, contribute to the continued use of cluster munitions.

Mr. President,

The United Nations also acknowledges the important role that the ICRC plays in providing guidance for drafting and enactment of national legislation on matters related to international humanitarian law.

The United Nations welcomes the commitment made recently by African States to "redouble efforts to work towards the adoption and promulgation of comprehensive national legislation and associated administrative measures required to implement all the obligations in the Convention (...) and to ensure that clear directives are given to all competent government agencies about the requirements of the national implementation

measures”. This commitment is reflected in the Lomé Strategy on the Universalization of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, adopted during the Lomé Regional Seminar on the Universalization of the CCM in May this year, which Conference, supported in its work by UNDP, the Cluster Munition Coalition and the ICRC.

As a follow-up to this Strategy, the United Nations looks forward to an initiative undertaken by Ghana to convene an expert meeting on the elaboration of model legislation in 2014 and the United Nations would like to reiterate its support for this initiative.

The United Nations remains available to provide policy and legislative advice as well as support to legislative review processes to States parties, such as the one worked on together with Lebanon last year, as well as other measures related to the implementation of Article 9 of the Convention.

Thank you.