



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

**Third Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions
Oslo, 13 September 2012**

Statement on Cooperation and Assistance

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

Mr. President,

I deliver the following statement on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action (IACG-MA), comprising the 14 United Nations Departments, Agencies, Funds, and Programmes involved in mine action.

As done by previous speakers, the United Nations would like to express its appreciation for the work of the Coordinators, Mexico and Spain, for their presentation on the status and progress with regards to this important issue. The United Nations also welcomes the catalogue of best practices on cooperation and assistance for this Convention, compiled by both Coordinators, and commends them for this valuable tool and reference document, and hopes they will continue with this initiative. Our thanks go also to Armin Braha of Albania for his key note presentation on this subject.

During the Intersessionals meeting in May, the IACG-MA shared with delegations the main findings from the review of the progress made towards the strategic objectives of the UN mine action strategy 2006-2012, which can be found online.¹

As many of you are aware, the United Nations is in the process of developing the next UN mine action strategy. The extensive consultations so far have been very productive. The United Nations expresses its sincere appreciation for the active and insightful engagement of affected states, non-governmental organizations, civil society, donors and other partners. The process is well on track for a new strategy to be endorsed within the UN system by the end of year and we look forward to your continued engagement and inputs in the weeks ahead.

Particular thanks go to Norwegian People's Aid for hosting a stakeholder meeting on the next UN mine action strategy at the start of this week.

¹ www.mineaction.org

As highlighted in the Oslo Progress Report, one important challenge is the need to maintain reliable and continuous assistance to affected states, especially in relation to long-term requirements and objectives. The United Nations shares the view that it is critical that assistance to affected states helps to maintain this momentum in the most effective way possible.

As mentioned earlier, notably by Australia, the United Nations is in the process of re-examining and elaborating further its approach to the Completion Initiative. As the United Nations continues to consider this amongst the members of the IACG, we will seek out the views of affected states, donors, NGOs, and other partners in order to determine how best to coordinate, or in some cases consolidate, efforts in support of national plans.

The Completion Initiative is one of many ways through which the United Nations will continue its cooperation and assistance in mine action. The United Nations stands ready to support states requesting assistance to comply with all relevant obligations, including survey and clearance, risk education, victim assistance, stockpile destruction, transparency reporting and development of national capabilities.

Last but not least, the United Nations wishes to thank donors and affected-countries for their trust in our contribution to mine action assistance and cooperation.

Thank you,