



Standing Committee on Resources, Cooperation and Assistance
Friday 24 June 2011

Mister President,

I am delivering the following statement on behalf of the United Nations Mine Action Team, comprising 14 UN entities involved in mine action.

We wish to start our intervention by welcoming the establishment of the new Standing Committee on Resources, Cooperation and Assistance. The Standing Committee, while garnering support from national authorities, donors, implementing partners and the United Nations, will provide the best possible arena for developing new, relevant and collective responses to the resource challenges facing State Parties through enhanced partnerships and funding modalities.

International support to mine action has reached a funding plateau, requiring the mine action community to do more with less to ensure that residual State Party obligations are met. At the same time, the lack of limited resources and at times unpredictable resource allocations, coupled with differing regulations governing existing funding mechanisms and sources, continue to include some of the main challenges facing the effective and full implementation of the Convention.

The United Nations takes this opportunity to reaffirm the central role that State Parties play with regard to international cooperation and assistance. As affirmed in the Cartagena Action Plan and stressed in the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action, national ownership and international partnerships are key aspects in defining coordination of assistance and cooperation and ensuring success.

Mine action needs to be coordinated by a committed national leadership, and closely integrated into national development plans and strategies. The United Nations believes that mine action is a cross-cutting activity that continues to directly advance the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Several United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks are up for review this year, and the United Nations, with UNDP in particular, will be approaching affected states and donors to strongly encourage, once again, the integration of mine action as part of the overall development agenda.

To match national commitment with sustainable resources and in the spirit of the international aid effectiveness agenda, we call on State Parties in a position to do so to provide, where and when possible, multi-year funding to facilitate long-term planning of mine action programmes while keeping mine action high on their broader humanitarian, development assistance, and disarmament and security agendas. The United Nations recognizes that mutual assistance and partnership can take many shapes and encourages all States Parties to promote technical cooperation (including South-South cooperation), in-kind contributions, and other modalities including information exchange on good practices and lessons learnt.

Fully supporting national owner- and leadership, the United Nations reiterates that it remains committed to continuing and improving its assistance to maximise the value of the resources entrusted to it. We expect to soon finalize the review of the United Nations Mine Action Strategy 2006-2010, which, *inter alia*, aims to gauge the effectiveness of United Nations cooperation and assistance provided. As mandated by the 2009 General Assembly Resolution on Assistance in Mine Action 64/84, the United Nations is furthermore under going a comprehensive evaluation of its assistance to mine action. Results of the 2006-2010 Strategy review process and recommendations of the Evaluation will inform the forthcoming 2011-2015 United Nations Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy, which we had commenced to discuss and develop. The review of the Strategy, the Evaluation and the forthcoming 2011-2015 Strategy development process are intended to provide the United Nations Mine Action Team with a strategic roadmap, tangible goals and a clear division of labour to ensure value for money.

The UN resource mobilization efforts are consistent with the Cartagena Action Plan. They target supporting States to fulfil their obligations to the Convention. The United Nations Mine Action Team continues to facilitate the development of the Portfolio of Mine Action Projects, a consultative process resulting in the publication of annual snapshots of global mine action funding needs and activities. In 2011, the combined budgets of all projects in the Portfolio was US\$498 million addressing close to 240 mine action initiatives by 71 appealing agencies in 29 countries and territories. The Portfolio is only the first step in defining requirements and all members of the United Nations Mine Action Team stand ready to assist in subsequent review processes.

The United Nations furthermore attempts to include mine action concerns into wider development and humanitarian appeal processes and documents. For example, the United Nations actively participates in humanitarian appeals at the field to advocate for the inclusion of mine action inputs in the Consolidated Appeals Processes coordinated by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, both in terms of needs assessment and projects.

On the development side, the United Nations supports the UNDP-led “Completion Initiative”, which aims to ensure that more States Parties receive the support required to comply with the Convention’s obligations in a timely and effective manner. This initiative contributes to the enhanced allocation of resources, highlights the finite character of mine contamination and thereby contributes to maintaining the international momentum generated by the Convention.

The United Nations also welcomes, encourages and actively supports initiatives that further reinforce partnerships and making the best use of complementarities and comparative advantage of relevant stakeholders. For instance, South-South cooperation and the sharing of experiences and knowledge between affected states allow States Parties with less financial resources to make a valuable contribution to the implementation of Article 6. States Parties interested in South-South cooperation in mine action could liaise with UNDP and contribute to the Mine Action Exchange (MAX) programme.

Furthermore, UNDP, UNICEF and UNMAS aim to regularly communicate the concerns and needs of Government- and inter-agency partners to the donor community through the Mine Action Support Group (MASG). In this regard, the United Nations welcomes recent restructuring ideas with a view to transforming the MASG from a mainly information sharing forum to a decision-making body. For that purpose, a mine action expert will be recruited by the United Nations and report to MASG members through the MASG Chair, to provide dedicated undertake analyses on mine action trends of interest to MASG members to ensure informed decision making. We thank the United States for its efforts in chairing the MASG and encourage interested States to assume the chairmanship of this forum beyond 2011.

As concerning victim assistance, we have started a review of the role and tasks of UN mine action, including headquarters and the field, within the overall role of the UN system in support of persons with disabilities. As part of this process, we aim further to develop appropriate guidance to UN in the field. We welcome yesterday’s presentation by WHO on the *World report on disability*, which we note was produced in partnership with the World Bank and in consultation with the broad UN system. We expect that the *World report* will provide us with a tool to facilitate the integration of victim assistance into broader disability frameworks. We also welcome the recent publication by the Implementation Support Unit (ISU): *Assisting Landmine and other ERW Survivors in the Context of Disarmament, Disability and Development*, launched last Wednesday, which we think would also be of great help to our review. We will brief you on progress with our review when the opportunity arises in future.

In conclusion, we wish to welcome once again the establishment of this Standing Committee and stand ready to provide our full support to the discussions on how to improve the use of resources and develop common responses to meet the Convention’s obligations. In doing

so, we stress the need to ensure that operational implementation efforts under the Convention are aligned and coordinated with efforts under other relevant treaties, notably the Cluster Munitions Convention, without undermining the effectiveness of those treaties and that lessons learned and best practices under the Convention are utilized as we move forward with the implementation of the Cluster Munitions Convention.

Thank you Mr. President.