

**THE  
UNITED  
NATIONS  
MINE ACTION**

**Agenda item 10**

**Enhancing international cooperation and assistance in the context of the Convention**

**Tuesday 30 November**

We wish to start our intervention by commending the leadership shown by Albania, as an affected States Party that has met its clearance obligation ahead of its Article 5 deadline and is today presiding the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties. In many ways, the steps taken by Albania, while garnering the support from donors, implementing partners and also the United Nations, is very much representative of the role that States Parties should be striving for in relation to national ownership, to capacity development, political will and leadership.

Albania is one of the about seventy affected countries and territories that have received assistance provided by the United Nations, in cooperation with a large number of partners, since the First Review Conference.

We take this opportunity to stress once again the central role that States Parties play with regards to international cooperation and assistance, which could take many shapes and that all States Parties are in a position to provide, be it through technical or financial assistance, by sharing its national experience or lessons learnt or just by being an example to follow. United Nations also supports initiatives that further reinforce partnerships and making the best of use of complementarities and comparative advantage of relevant stakeholders.

Mine action should be placed within the larger development efforts to ensure that, when relevant, it is reflected in national development plans and national budgets. The United Nations continues its efforts to ensure this reflection takes place by including mine action in process like the UNDAFs, PRSPs, and Humanitarian Action Plans in situations of emergency.

As stressed by the Geneva Progress Report 32 out of the 38 States Parties that must still complete implementation of Article 5 obligations have states indicated a need for assistance and the gaps between projected needs and anticipated contributions poses several challenges in for the effort to ensure compliance. The availability of resources may well be one of the main challenges facing the effective and full implementation of the Convention. Let us maintain and renew if possible the momentum and our collective commitment to overcome this challenge.

The UNDP "Completion Initiative" aims to ensure that more States Parties declare their compliance with the Convention's obligations, particularly with regards to Article 5 provisions, and thereby show that the problem of contamination could be finite and that the goal of a mine free world achievable, thus contributing to maintain the international momentum generated by the APMBC, but also by the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Other initiatives from the United Nations side include the recent establishment by UNMAS of a Standing Mine Action Capacity and the activation of a mine action area of responsibility (AoR) within the Global Protection Cluster, coordinated by UNHCR.

We acknowledge concerns raised regarding delays in the provision of funding through the United Nations system. We wish to assure that the UN is taking these concerns seriously and that we all members of the UN Mine Action Team are currently addressing as matter of urgency the ways and means to ensure a prompt and effective transfer of the funds to the final implementers.

Last year in Cartagena we inform on the review of the United Nations Mine Action Strategy 2006-2010 and referred to some of the initial findings. Early next year we expect to finalize the review of this strategy, which aims to gauge the effectiveness of the cooperation and assistance it has provided. We have started earlier this year the process leading to the development of the new inter-agency mine action strategy for the period 2011-2015. In relation to this process, many of the delegations participating in this Meeting will be approached by a consultant appointed to assist in preparing the new strategy.

Also, as mandated by the General Assembly Resolution on Assistance in Mine Action (A/RES/64/84) last year, the conduction for a comprehensive evaluation of the United Nations assistance in mine action has already started. This evaluation is being conducted by the Joint Inspection Union (JIU) and we also wish to request delegations here to provide all your support to the JIU in the undertaking of its tasks.

We welcome the discussions on how to improve the use of resources and the benefit of assistance, we stress the need to ensure that efforts under the APMBC are aligned and coordinated with efforts under other relevant treaties, notably the CCM and that lessons learned and best practices under the APMBC are utilized as we move forward with the implementation of the CCM.

Finally, the United Nations Mine Action Team reiterates that it remains committed to improve and continue its assistance and maintain its broad cooperation with all partners, starting with affected States Parties, to achieve our common goal of a mine free world.