

Statement by Lithuania
on Cooperation and assistance (agenda item 12(e)(i))

November 28, 2008

Mr. President,

Lithuania has already fulfilled its obligations under Articles 4 and 5, and considers cooperation and assistance as defined in Article 6 to be its most important contribution to the Convention.

We fully support the draft Geneva Progress Report calling upon all States Parties which are in a position to do so to provide assistance to States Parties with clearly demonstrated needs for external support. Lithuania while providing the assistance strives to build local capacities of the receiving country and encourages national ownership and commitment.

Our contribution to international mine action is reported in detail under Article 7 and the report is available in public on the UNOG website.

In coming years Lithuania will continue to focus its assistance in Eastern Europe, in particular in neighboring countries, South Caucasus and Afghanistan.

Mr. President,

One of our guiding principles is synergies between the instruments of international humanitarian law, such as the Ottawa Convention, CCW and its protocols, Convention on Cluster Munitions. With this view, in June 2008 Lithuania hosted the

regional seminar “Towards global coherence in addressing the problems caused by landmines, cluster munitions and explosive remnants of war”. Participants from more than 20 countries, international organizations, UN agencies and civil society engaged into the discussion. One of the aims of the seminar was to explore ways of more integrated approach and cooperation in order to avoid overlapping in the field of conventional disarmament, as forums and instruments are becoming more numerous and complex. The discussion on coherence in mine action covering anti-personnel landmines, ERWs and cluster munitions has been supported as relevant and timely. Linkages between different instruments of mine action are obvious, further dialogue and synergy, innovative thinking and smarter action is needed.

Lithuania will further promote the integrated approach in its capacity of the Coordinator for clearance under the CCW Protocol V on ERW in 2009.