



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

12th Meeting of States Parties to the Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention

Statement on Cooperation and Assistance

Agenda item 10 (f)

Geneva, 7 December 2012

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

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.

The United Nations concurs with all those delegations that have highlighted the crucial importance of effectively implementing Article 6 of the Convention on international cooperation and assistance. Actions #34 to #52 of the Cartagena Action Plan provide useful guidance for the implementation of Article 6.

As indicated in our statement during the general exchange of views, the United Nations support to the over thirty States Parties is tailored to the needs and requirements of each of them and in most cases include all five pillars of mine action, in addition to national capacity-building, resource mobilization and with full integration of gender perspective in all plans and programmes.

The United Nations joins others to appeal for predictable –as highlighted earlier by Colombia–, flexible and needs-based funding that will enable strategic planning, ensure a rapid mine action response in emergency settings and set and fulfil objectives under longer-term plans. Most notably, this would also help ensure the focus on completion and fulfilment of all relevant treaty obligations. With regard to completion, as also indicated by Australia, I wish to mention that the United Nations is working together with the Mine Action Support Group (MASG) in updating and further developing the UN Completion Initiative.

Regarding mine action funding, it is my pleasure to announce that the United Nations 2013 Portfolio of Mine Action Project is available on-line as of today in E-MINE (www.mineaction.org).

The 2013 Portfolio, a joint product of UNDP, UNICEF and UNMAS, compiles 220 mine action projects from more than 65 organizations in 25 countries and territories. Recipient entities include national authorities, civil society organizations and United Nations

agencies, funds and programmes. The cost of the 220 projects in the Portfolio is 361 million US\$.

The United Nations invites all delegations to review the Portfolio. Donors specifically are encouraged to consider supporting the projects put forward in the Portfolio. Since most of the beneficiaries are mine-affected States Parties to the Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention, your contribution to the Portfolio will support their efforts in complying with their obligations under the Convention.

Beyond funding, the United Nations continues to encourage South-South cooperation with the objective of sharing good practices and lessons learnt among all affected countries. For example, the cooperation between Ecuador and Peru has been highlighted a number of times this week. Technical support and training were mentioned several times and the UN is also supportive of these activities.

Finally, I am glad to inform you that the United Nations is currently finalizing its Strategy on Mine Action for 2013-2018 following an intensive consultation process. It is expected that the Strategy will be adopted by the United Nations before the end of the year. Once it comes into effect, the Strategy should provide the guidance needed and serve as a framework for United Nations assistance to affected countries. The benefit of the extensive consultations and the engagement by all has been undeniable. The United Nations has sought to reinforce its commitment to support affected countries and territories, especially taking into account compliance with international normative frameworks, as well as reinforcing the impact of mine action across peace and security, human rights, humanitarian and development responses.

The Strategy will include for the first time a specific monitoring and evaluation framework to track and measure the impact of the United Nations in implementing its strategic objectives. This will assist in providing regular reporting of progress and help maintain the momentum and focus required to make a mine-free world a reality.

Thank you