



Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

Third Review Conference of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Statement on “Cooperation and assistance”

Agenda item 7 (e)

Maputo, Friday 27 June 2014

Delivered by Ms. Agnès Marcaillou, Director, United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

The following statement is delivered on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action¹ (IACG-MA), comprising 14 United Nations entities involved in mine action.

Since the Second Review Conference, five years ago in Cartagena, the United Nations has developed the Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2013-2018, which reaffirms its commitments to act effectively and efficiently towards a world free of the threat of landmines and explosive remnants of war. As part of the Strategy, the United Nations committed to transparency, clarity, accountability and effective partnerships.

Building on lessons learnt from the previous strategies, the United Nations is determined to strengthen its monitoring and evaluation to better assess progress made by the United Nations in the implementation of its vision, strategic objectives and internal initiatives.

The IACG-MA entrusted UNMAS to lead a consultative working group to develop a monitoring and evaluation mechanism, which aims to capture the contributions and outcomes achieved through the different *modus operandi*, mandates and roles of all IACG-MA members. It is a challenging endeavor, but the IACG-MA is making progress through a wide consultation process that includes good cooperation and constructive partnerships. A survey instrument has been field-tested and a monitoring mechanism has been successfully piloted. Roll out will be completed in all UNMAS programmes by the end of the year. To succeed, the United Nations needs the good cooperation and

¹ The Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) / United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), UN Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), UN Development Programme (UNDP), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) (Observer status), and the World Bank (Observer status).

partnerships that have been generated so far at country level, especially with relevant national authorities.

The next report of the Secretary-General on Assistance in Mine Action, in 2015, will be the first opportunity for the IACG-MA to report on the implementation of the strategic objectives of the United Nations Mine Action Strategy using data obtained through this monitoring and evaluation mechanism.

The 17th Annual Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and UN Advisors Meeting, in Geneva, provided an excellent opportunity to examine the practical application, relevance and challenges of monitoring, measurability and evaluation, from the perspective of mine action programme directors. Without their support and approval to extract national data as the basis for global analysis, assessment of the aggregated impact of United Nations assistance in mine action will remain difficult. The discussions informed the process and validated the needs for a mechanism that would allow United Nations entities to monitor and report on their respective contributions in manners that fit their respective and quite different operational modalities.

The IACG-MA strongly encourages continued participation of all stakeholders, without whom no assessment of the impact of United Nations assistance in mine action would be possible.

Preparations for the annual Portfolio of Mine Action projects will begin in September. As in previous years, UNMAS will coordinate the process and all stakeholders are invited to participate. The launch of the 2015 edition of the Portfolio is scheduled for December.

Mr. President,

The United Nations continues to support South-South² cooperation in the field of mine action. It is an effective vehicle for sharing the vast experiences built up in and among affected states. Five years have passed since the last Review Conference, and in that time, in many cases with the support of the United Nations, the experience and capacity of affected states has increased significantly, affording greater opportunities for sharing best practices.

² UNMAS facilitated South-South cooperation with the support of programmes in Afghanistan and in Lebanon. In the case of Afghanistan, UNMAS Afghan staff visited three countries: South Sudan, to share their experience on extension request preparation; Colombia, for exchanges on quality managements and NGO accreditation; and Tajikistan, for discussions on quality explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) systems. Similarly, UNDP, for example, supported exchanges between Arabic-speaking countries, as well as training and provision of services among Persian-speaking countries and between African countries, either one-to-one or through global, regional or sub-regional initiatives. For instance, at global level, UNDP supported Cambodia when inviting countries from all affected regions to exchange lessons learned on national ownership and mine action.

Mr. President,

In the last five years, many mine-affected countries have been getting closer to completion of their Article 5 obligations. The primary responsibility for completion lies with mine-affected States Parties. They should exercise national ownership and actively identify the problems as well as their solutions, including the use of national resources to ensure timely compliance, in particular for the clearance operations. With the remarkable economic development seen in many affected States Parties in recent years, an increased national contribution to the mine action sector will demonstrate national ownership, reduce reliance on donor funds and provide incentive to donor states, given the preference for supporting mine-affected states that display an active interest and investment in their own programmes. Also, some States Parties should do more to promote mine action as a priority area within their national development plans.

At the same time, the United Nations wishes to call on States Parties that are in a position to do so, to provide affected States in need with assistance and cooperation in support of mine action and victim assistance. Last year, the General Assembly adopted a resolution on Assistance in Mine Action (A/RES/68/72) that reinforced this point by urging “all States, in particular those in a position to do so [...] to provide reliable, predictable, timely and where possible multi-annual contributions for mine action [...], including to the United Nations, for activities related to rapid response, victim assistance and mine risk education.”

Finally, the IACG-MA would like to thank Ecuador and Indonesia, Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Resources, Cooperation and Assistance, for their efforts to promote cooperation and assistance.

Thank you.