

# Review Conference of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions

23 December 2014

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## First Preparatory Meeting for the First Review Conference

Geneva, 5 February 2015

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

Presentation on the review of the Vientiane Action Plan

### Review of the Vientiane Action Plan III. Implementation support

#### Submitted by the President to the Fifth Meeting of States Parties

1. Notwithstanding, and more specific elaboration of progress made with reference to the areas of individual working groups presented in more depth together with the challenges encountered and recommendations for further work on a Dubrovnik Action Plan, some more process oriented aspects can be highlighted in relation to actions #51-57 of the Vientiane Action Plan.

#### Scope

2. The Vientiane Action Plan of 2010 laid out a roadmap with the objective to ensure effective and timely implementation. The Vientiane Action Plan set out concrete and measurable steps, actions and targets aimed to be completed within specific time frames and with defined roles and responsibilities. It based its scope and assumptions on the organisation of work known within the broader humanitarian disarmament and mine action communities lending existing processes, procedures, methodology and operational structure to the work.

#### Progress

3. Actions undertaken in support of implementation included collective efforts to remain inclusive with the aim of facilitating systematic input and engagement from a range of non-State actors from civil society and international organisations and forge new partnerships with access both to informal and formal gatherings of the Convention. Following the First Meeting of States Parties a regular work programme and meeting schedule was established together with a Coordination Committee chaired by the President and consisting of fourteen Coordinators.

4. To support this architecture the Vientiane Action Plan suggested an implementation support unit, and subsequent to a decision to this end at the Fourth Meeting of States

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Parties, and whilst States parties discuss the final fine-tuning of these arrangements, UNDP was requested to continue its support to the Convention on an interim basis. Finally, a sponsorship programme was also established to ensure inclusive, representative and participatory processes. A well-established mine action sector and the work of other relevant instruments of disarmament and of international humanitarian and human rights law also offered a framework within which cooperation could be pursued in ways that maximizes efficiency and impact.

5. Five years into the making, and drawing on progress made, a satisfying conclusion is that much has been accomplished with implementation support. More remains to be done however to accomplish the aims of the Convention and we must not only stay the course but indeed “up-the-marks” to ensure a progress commensurate with our collective goals as well as the individual legal obligations of States parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

## **Recommendations**

6. Drawing from the provisions of the Convention, the Vientiane Action Plan was designed to gather momentum in the practical implementation of the Treaty. In the lead up to the First Review Conference, States should review the form and format of this collective plan of action to ensure that the new iteration, within an ever-changing environment, remains both constructive and flexible and takes on an innovative and results based approach in its guidance to States ensuring that efforts are translated into real impact on the ground.

7. To this end, regular reviews of the implementation support to the Convention would also be warranted to ensure that the programme of work with associated schedules, form and format of meetings, the coordination mechanisms and dedicated implementation support unit together with a sponsorship programme at all times are needs-based and meet the objectives of the results framework agreed among States parties to the Convention.

8. Much of these elements will be discussed within the formal review underway under the leadership of the President-designate of the First Review Conference on the status and operation of the Convention. Notwithstanding, in the further elaboration of a Dubrovnik Action Plan efforts should be done to further develop and strengthen a multiyear framework that can present an ambitious plan of action—with any necessary fine-tuning of implementation support as agreed, to ensure follow up. Such a results framework should contain well-defined baselines as well as overall goals and clearly identifiable targets. A five-year period would also lend itself to the definition of periodic milestones and indicators of success that more easily could help measure progress.

9. The Presidency of Costa Rica looks forward to working with Croatia as the President-designate of the Review Conference on this in the lead up to the First Review Conference.

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