STATEMENT BY THE MINE ACTION SUPPORT GROUP (MASG)

ON COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE

TO THE

MEETING OF EXPERTS OF PROTOCOL V (EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR) OF THE CCW

10 April 2013, GENEVA

(Statement delivered by the MASG Secretariat)

Chair,

I would like to take the floor in my capacity as the Secretariat of the Mine Action Support Group. The Mine Action Support Group is an informal grouping of around 30 mine action donors which endeavors to coordinate the humanitarian mine action programs of the world's major donor states, harmonize the prioritization of their respective mine action programs, and increase donor support for mine action where it is most needed.

This statement is made in response to a request from the CCW ISU for the MASG to provide an update on its work on donor coordination in mine action, and follows on from a statement made by the Chair of the MASG to this meeting last September.

In March 2012 the MASG commissioned a study titled “Mine Action Coordination and Partnerships”. The aim of the study is to map donor interests and support to mine action, and consider ways that the MASG may be able to improve coordination and partnerships in the mine action sector. A draft of the study report identified numerous ways that the MASG could be more pro-active in its work. The draft study has now gone to MASG members for their detailed comments. It will be revised and then reviewed at the next MASG meeting to be held on 4 April 2013, where follow-on activities should be agreed.

However, the main recommendations from the study are;

Global Level

Option 1. The MASG should be more proactive in coordinating the work of its members through such actions as;

- Discussions and consultations on strategic policy considerations
- The conduct of joint assessments, monitoring and evaluation
- Exchange of information on funding intentions, funding expectations and cost comparisons
- Harmonization of the reporting requirements of partners
- Sharing lessons learned through briefings, websites, etc.
Option 2. MASG members should establish some principles in relation to donor coordination and partnership, which could include the following:

- elaborate a national mine action policy or strategy, or make it clearer where its mine action policies and priorities are located within broader development and humanitarian policies and strategies
- agree to regularly share their strategies, provide regular updates on their support to mine action, raise coordination issues that may arise, ensure their assistance is clear and accountable to the national mine action program and any other donors working in the country

Option 3. The MASG should consider expanding its membership and encourage other mine action donors or potential donors to become a member.

In-country Level.

Option 4. The MASG should promote coordination at the country level by:

- maintaining a focus on countries with emerging/emergency programs, or that are nearing ‘completion’
- including emerging/emergency programs and completion on its meeting agenda
- encouraging its members to take a lead donor role in support of one or more mine affected countries
- promoting the concepts of national ownership and encourage all donor supported mine affected countries to establish similar ‘Partnership Principles’ as have been agreed in Cambodia

I am also pleased to advise that the MASG has taken steps to improve information exchange between its members and the broader mine action sector. These include the establishment of a part-time Secretariat for the MASG and the setting up of a website at www.mineactionsupportgroup.org. Minutes of MASG meetings, study reports and other information of relevance are now regularly posted on the website and we encourage all interested parties to review the website. Once finalized, the MASG study on Mine Action Coordination and Partnerships will also be available on the website.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Coordinator on Cooperation and Assistance once again for his interest in the MASG and associated correspondence and, in return, to assure the meeting of the MASG interest and support to CCW Protocol V:

End

21 March 2013