

**ICBL Statement on International Cooperation and Assistance
13th Meeting of States Parties
6 December 2013**



Merci Monsieur le Président,

In the Cartagena Action Plan, States committed to enhancing effectiveness in mine action and ensuring cooperation between relevant actors. As we step up our collective effort to achieve our goal – completion as fast as is possible – promoting cooperation and improving effectiveness is more important than ever. The commitment to promote cooperation and improve effectiveness applies equally to States that are requesting and to those that are receiving assistance. But it should also apply equally – and must be embraced by – the range of organisations through which it is provided and delivered.

The goal we are all working towards is undisputed and it is critical that we get there as fast as possible. But to truly consider our effectiveness, even as we redouble our efforts towards completion, we still need to understand the daily impact of mines on people and use this to improve the cooperation and assistance we provide. Collecting and understanding information is not enough. It must be used proactively to inform management decision making at stages of strategic and operational programming.

Turning to cooperation, I am pleased to be able to update you on the work undertaken by five international operational mine action NGOs during 2013 to promote effectiveness and cooperation in our efforts. We have done so with the aim of ensuring that our work achieves the greatest positive benefit to people, and with the greatest support to national ownership.

Dan Church Aid, Danish Demining Group, Handicap International, Norwegian People's Aid and the Mines Advisory Group have developed, and most importantly committed to be bound by, five principles for people-centred programming in our mine action work. The five NGOs have also developed and agreed to 15 guiding indicators for outcome monitoring in mine action which we have all agreed to use. We have agreed to identify lessons learned and share our learning for the benefit of the sector. And we have committed to be held accountable to these principles and our values. I would like to thank AusAID publically for their support.

Throughout this process, we have been in close dialogue and coordination with a number of stakeholders, particularly the United Nations through the Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action (IACG-MA), which has taken important steps towards the implementation of a monitoring and evaluation framework for the UN's current Mine Action Strategy.

I should stress that our work is not exhaustive and there is still more to consider, more to do and, as always, more to improve. But we invite states and stakeholders to join us at a side session on Friday to discuss this initiative, its potential implications and its application. We hope that this discussion, in an informal setting, will complement and further enhance the steps States are taking here to ensure that international cooperation and assistance is as effective as it can be.

Mr President,

Let me close by repeating what has been said throughout the week. That the route to completion needs to be as short as possible. That said, it is paved with opportunities to keep women, girls, boys and men, and people-focussed outcomes, at the centre of what we are doing and why we are doing it.

I hope delegations can join us on Friday.

Merci, Monsieur le Président.