



Lebanese Republic
2MSP
12-16/9/2011

Intervention of Lebanese delegation to the Second Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions

Item no [] on Storage and Stockpile Destruction

Madam President,

My Delegation wishes to extend sincere appreciation to the friend of the president on Storage and Stockpile destruction for the excellent work during the first presidency, and for the highly cooperative manner by which the work was conducted.

Mr. President, the groundbreaking provisions of the Convention on Cluster Munitions should be preserved, and it is our responsibility as States Parties to do so.

The proactive and preventive nature of the CCM entails the destruction of Billions of submunitions stockpiled worldwide, thus preventing their future use.

While mankind could not unfortunately get to that level of humanity where wars and armed conflicts become part of our history, it is inevitable that, in case we want to prevent further human suffering due to the use of cluster munition, to make sure that these billions of submunitions are separated from other munitions retained for operational use and marked for the purpose of destruction.

We all undertook to destroy cluster munitions stockpiles within specific timeframes, and Lebanon is particularly delighted to see that 7 States Parties have reported to have started planning for, or actual physical destruction of their stockpiles. We congratulate the 8 States parties that have completed the destruction of their stockpiles and encourage others to follow suite. We also congratulate Hungary, a Signatory to the CCM that have completed stockpile destruction and we encourage other signatories and other states to do the same.

Madam President, Lebanon has never stockpiled this indiscriminate weapon, neither for training, nor for any of the other purposes enlisted in paragraph 6 of Article 3 of the CCM. This delegation is of the view that there is no concrete ground for cluster munition or submunition retention. While we do not see any reason for retaining cluster munitions, we think that the argument of submunition retention is a weak one. According to the Lebanese Mine Action Center, the uncertainty of the status of submunition remnants after their use, is incomparable to results achieved in testing a submunition in a laboratory. Myths and realities in our opinion are two parallel lines.

Furthermore, detection of submunition remnants does not require a more sophisticated technology than what currently exists. Metal detectors in most cases are appropriate for clearance personnel to identify areas contaminated, and even better when the user relays information on cluster munition strikes. I thank you Madam President.



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