

**Second Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions
Beirut, 12-16 September 2011**

Storage and stockpile destruction

Statement by Ireland, 14 September

Madam President

My delegation would like to thank Germany as Friend of the President for its work on this important issue. An important aspect of the Convention on Cluster Munitions is its preventative nature. Ensuring the destruction of existing stocks of cluster munitions will remove any possibility of their future use or transfer.

It is true that the destruction of cluster munitions is a process which will require time and resources, but in our view the challenges involved can be met by starting early and with determination to implement the Convention's obligations. We recognise that there are a number of different approaches to achieving efficient stockpile destruction, and we urge each State possessing stockpiles to determine the most appropriate method, based on the volume and nature of the munitions and the resources available to that State. We welcome the progress since our last meeting reported by Germany and in particular we welcome the achievement of Hungary in joining the growing list of States Parties who have completed the destruction of its entire stockpile.

Madam President

While Ireland has never possessed cluster munitions, we also understand the reasons why States agreed to permit the retention or acquisition of a limited number of cluster munitions or explosive submunitions for the purposes specified in Article 3.6 of the Convention. In our view, such purposes would include the development and validation of render safe procedures, and the training of personnel in these procedures, as well as the calibration and testing of detection equipment, mechanical clearance technologies and protective equipment for clearance personnel.

Ireland encourages all States possessing stockpiles to set about the task of destruction with all possible speed, in order to achieve the final elimination of the risk of proliferation and use of cluster munitions. We also urge States and international organisations to share information and techniques on the most effective methods of destruction and in particular to share lessons learned from recent destruction projects carried out in accordance with this article of the CCM

I thank you, Madam President.