

Hungary  
16 April 2012

Mr Coordinator,  
Dear Colleagues,

The Convention on Cluster Munitions represents a unique achievement of multilateral diplomacy. Since 1997, when the Mine Ban Convention was signed, this Convention is the first new multilateral instrument on disarmament.

The success of the Oslo Process is in large part due to the intense level of cooperation between governments and civil society, whose dedicated expertise and persistence played a vital role in getting to where we are today. I have to say that in the world of multilateral diplomacy and international law, this achievement is almost unprecedented.

In the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, Hungary has never been among the laggards, consistently supporting improvements in the multilateral disarmament machinery. Besides negotiating new documents, in our view, the ancient principle of international law, "*pacta sunt servanda*", the fulfilment of obligations coming from existing agreements is equally important. We take our disarmament obligations seriously and make sure that they are translated into concrete action, be that action to be taken in the field, at the demolition site, or in the meeting rooms. In this spirit, we were among the first to destroy our stockpile of anti-personal landmines in line with the Mine Ban Treaty.

In parallel with the ratification process, we started the destruction of our stockpiles of cluster munitions, which was completed almost a year ago, in June 2011, well before the conclusion of the ratification process.

Today, I am happy to report to you that on 27 February 2012 the Hungarian Parliament unanimously ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions, proving once again Hungary's commitment to disarmament and in particular to the elimination of weapons of indiscriminate effects. With the same act, the Hungarian Penal Code was also amended, adding cluster munitions to the list of internationally prohibited weapons, so that the procurement, use, manufacturing and transfer of such munitions will be punished. The legislation entered into force on 6 March; the instruments of ratification will be transmitted to the depository in the near future.

Finally, let me reiterate that we believe that the Convention on Cluster Munitions is an important milestone regarding the protection of civilians in armed conflict and in a post-conflict environment. Hungary therefore has been and continues to remain an active supporter of the implementation of the principles and objectives of the Convention.

Thank you.