

**Statement from the Republic of Suriname on The 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of States Parties  
to the Convention on Cluster Munitions**

Mr. President,

Please allow me to congratulate you on your election as president of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. I would also like to take this opportunity to compliment Norway for hosting this memorable event.

During this meeting we commemorate the fact that in 2008 states committed themselves to conclude a legally binding instrument that would function as a tool to prohibit the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of cluster munitions.

With the enactment of the CCM in 2008, it was clear that it would not be easy to reach all the goals set forward to strengthen International Humanitarian Law and so consequently promote security and enable human development. The first years of a new beginning are therefore crucial as cornerstones are being set for future successes. We therefore applaud the government of Norway for playing such a pivotal role from the beginning. We also applaud the government of Lebanon, a country which experienced the effects of these weapons for taking the courage to move forward and confronts us with these effects that persuade us to take action.

After four years great improvements have been made and 75 countries are party to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, while several others are doing their utmost to eliminate these weapon systems in their country and also stimulate others to act accordingly.

Mr. President

Although the Republic of Suriname is not a state party to the convention, it underscores the importance of the prohibition of the production and stockpiling of these kinds of munitions that are indiscriminate and cause great suffering to civilians.

Despite that fact that Suriname is not familiar with incidents of cluster munitions, landmines have caused civilian casualties. With the assistance from friendly nations, these mines have been destroyed and we are therefore proud to inform the meeting that Suriname has been declared mine free by the Organization of American States. Furthermore, my country is also doing its utmost to commit itself to all disarmament and arms control issues and support coalitions that are advocates of these conventions.

Mr. President

Discussions on the process of joining the Cluster Munitions Convention are frequently held in Suriname as we underscore the importance of the world's endeavors to prohibit the use of these indiscriminate weapons and decrease their effects. The government of Suriname is well aware of its responsibility as part of the international community in taking all measures in keeping our world secure and safe for all. And as we all know, safety begins at home, with the implementation of rules and setting of standards.

Mr. President,

I wish to inform you that the Republic of Suriname is in the process of taking our responsibility a step further. In that respect experts of both the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs meet in thematic gatherings to discuss the process towards accession.

I want to ensure you that by next year the delegation of Suriname can inform you extensively about the process of becoming an active part of this global initiative to end the use and development of cluster munitions.

I once again thank you for your invitation to be present in Norway and so be part of this important event.