

Jamaica

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**Statement for the Third Meeting of States Parties on Cluster Munitions  
11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> September 2012, Norway**

Mr. President,

It is indeed a pleasure for my delegation to address the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. At the outset, allow me to thank the Government of Norway for hosting us so graciously and for the warm hospitality extended to delegations. We also wish to express our gratitude to the Government of Norway for the leadership displayed during the Oslo process, which eventually led to the adoption of the Convention. We look forward to your continued engagement on this important issue.

Mr. President,

The adoption of the Convention on Cluster Munitions four years ago on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2008 in this very City, was indeed a significant milestone for the disarmament agenda, as for decades, these weapons have had a lethal and indiscriminate impact on the lives of civilians, including vulnerable groups such as women and children. The Government of Jamaica was, therefore, pleased with the entry into force of the Treaty three years later in August 2010, as it represented a concrete step by the international community to rid the world of cluster munitions.

While Jamaica does not possess cluster munitions, we support the aims and objectives of the Convention which seeks to ban their use. This is in keeping with our tradition of giving political support to international norms aimed at strengthening the process of general disarmament. To this end, Jamaica participated actively in the negotiations leading to the adoption of the Convention and signed the Treaty on 12 June 2009.

The Government of Jamaica is now at an advanced stage with respect to ratification and it is expected the country will become a party to the Treaty in the very near future.

The convening of the Third Meeting of States Parties is another crucial step towards eliminating these weapons. It is expected that Member States will take stock of the progress achieved since its entry into force and adopt tangible measures to facilitate the full implementation of the Convention at the national level. Central to the successful implementation of the Convention is its universalization. My delegation, therefore, hopes that renewed efforts will be made to increase the momentum towards the goal of universalization.

In closing, I look forward to the deliberations on these and other pertinent issues, and wish for you a successful Conference.

Thank you.