

New version!

**Third Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions  
Oslo, 11-14 September 2012**

**Universalisation  
Statement by Ireland, 13 September 2012**

Mr President,

My delegation would like to thank Japan and Portugal for their work and leadership on this important issue as Coordinators on Universalisation. We would also like to acknowledge the work many States Parties have undertaken in their own regions and across the world to increase adherence to this Convention.

Mr President

Many delegations have pointed out in the course of our discussions this week, that universalisation remains a significant challenge and an essential task in terms of establishing the international norm which is vital to the life and success of the Convention. In Vientiane we agreed upon 6 actions to strengthen universalisation and we are pleased to note their implementation recorded in the Oslo Progress Report.

We were encouraged by the work of the Accra Regional Conference on Universalisation of the CCM and pay tribute to the leadership of Ghana, Togo and Zambia in advancing the Convention. Such work is of the utmost importance, as it is in addressing the potential challenges faced by States considering accession that we will extend the reach of this treaty. We are pleased to welcome Cameroon among new States Parties to the Convention from Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and, we look forward to indications from States signatories of progress made toward their ratification of the Convention and to accession by non-States signatories.

We continue to use our network of Embassies and close relations with a number of States, including in Africa, Europe, and Southeast Asia, as well as multilateral opportunities, to open and maintain dialogue on universalisation. Military to military contacts also remain an important element in this dialogue. Ireland firmly believes that universalisation of the Convention will greatly contribute to international peace and security and we look forward to continuing efforts on this important issue with the Coordinators and States Parties.

I thank you Mr President