

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

General Exchange of Views

Statement by the Independent State of Samoa

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Mr. President, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Samoan delegation I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Norwegian Government and the people of the Kingdom of Norway for the excellent preparations and warm welcome at this Third Meeting of States Parties.

Further, let me congratulate you and the Bureau on your election. Let me also convey our sincere appreciation to the Government of Lebanon as previous Chair for their able stewardship. Samoa pledges its full support and cooperation with the newly elected Bureau during the meeting.

Mr. President,

I would like to reiterate Samoa's full commitment to the obligations under the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Samoa was proud to be one of the first countries to sign the Convention in Oslo and to deposit its instrument of ratification in 2010 becoming the second country in the Pacific region at the time to become a State Party and underscoring its commitment and support for the promotion of the principles of general disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons.

Since the Convention's entry into force, Samoa has endeavored to put in place the relevant national legislation to enable the implementation of the Convention at the domestic level in accordance with Article 9. I am pleased to announce that Samoa has passed the '*Cluster Munitions Prohibition Act 2012*' which came into effect on 27 April 2012.

Mr. President,

In line with the objectives of this States Parties meeting, Samoa believes in the Convention's vital role in protecting civilians against the effects of armed conflict - it can indeed be a vital instrument of international humanitarian law, for example, through the penal sanction requirements in States Parties domestic legislation for the implementation of the Convention. The Cluster Munitions Prohibition Act 2012, applies these penal sanctions with regards to activity related to cluster munitions and is particularly important to a country like Samoa, which has never used, produced, stockpiled or transferred cluster munitions before to provide a safeguard for its citizens against any future use and/or effects of cluster munitions and to set a precedence for national legislation to protect against other types of munitions.

Our delegation looks forward to discussions on how the Convention can continue to play this preventative role in protecting civilians against harm, and how States Parties can work together to strengthen international humanitarian law.

Mr. President,

Let me conclude by reiterating Samoa's commitment to all obligations under the Convention and our sincere hope for an engaging and successful meeting.

Thank you Mr. President.