

**Statement by Dr.Zia Nezam
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At
The second Meeting of the Contention on Cluster
Munitions
12-16 sept.2011
Beirut, Lebanon**

Mr. President

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my great honor and pleasure to attend the second meeting of the State Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the government of Lebanon for hosting this very important event in the beautiful city of Beirut. Allow me to also extend my heartfelt congratulations to his Excellency President on assuming the presidency of this meeting. I wish you every success and assure you of my delegation's full support.

Mr. President,

The Afghans are victims of many different types of explosives, including the devastating effects of cluster munitions. Cluster bombs have killed and injured many Afghans during the past three decades and continue to do so even today. Civilians are almost the sole victims of cluster munitions. Cluster bombs used in Afghanistan have

been causing immense harms during and long after the fighting has ended. To this day, Afghanistan Has significant unexploded cluster bomb.

Mr. President,

Afghanistan through Government officials and civil society has been active in the International efforts to promote this Convention. Afghanistan has participated in the formal negotiations of Dublin, preparatory meeting of Oslo process and other related meetings. My delegation is pleased that the efforts of the International Community for the adoption and enforcement has been successful.

Afghanistan signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions on 3rd Dec. 2008, after approval of the Afghan Parliament and Cabinet; the Convention was officially ratified by the President on 6th June 2011. We would like to inform that, the instrument of ratification has been sent to the United Nation,Secretary General as a result afghanistan become 62 state parti to the convention.

Mr. President,

We will therefore begin to report on our progress towards the goals set by the Convention as of today.

At this stage, I would briefly like to report that Afghanistan, does not use, produce or transfer Cluster Munitions in the country. The contamination due to Cluster Munitions remaining from previous conflicts has now been reduced to 24 sites throughout the country and we are currently attempting to secure funds to bring this

figure to zero. It is important to mention that 157 areas previously contaminated have already been cleared.

In terms of casualties, in the last decade, we have recorded 206 civilian casualties due to Cluster Munitions.

However, this number has been dramatically reduced over the last few years, as evident in 2010 only two casualties were recorded in comparison with 70 casualties in 2001.

But still a large population of Afghans is living in some 2,021 land mine/Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) contaminated communities throughout the country. An estimated 612 square kilometers of land still requires clearance. This un-cleared land contains 6,353 hazardous areas with different types of anti-personnel, anti-tank mines and countless pieces of Explosive Remnants of War (ERW). In April to June 2011, the number of mine/ERW victims was 79 casualties, (20% killed and 80% injured)

Mr. President,

We are committed to stand by our ratification of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. My country is committed to implement fully all of the obligations under the Convention, particularly when it comes to assisting victims of cluster munitions and clearing the contaminated areas, and we are committed to honor our obligations in the Vientiane Action Plan. In conclusion, I would like to mention that my country is ready for cooperation, enhancement of partnership between states, international organizations and civil society to fulfill the objectives of the Convention.

I thank you for your attention