

Convention on Cluster Munitions

Second Meeting of States Parties

12 – 16 September 2011 in Beirut, Lebanon

General statement by Denmark

- check against delivery -

President,

On behalf of the Danish delegation I would like to express our sincere appreciations to the Lebanese Government and the people of Lebanon for the excellent preparations and warm welcome at this Second Meeting of States Parties.

Furthermore let me congratulate you and Members of the Bureau with the election. Denmark pledge full support to and cooperation with the Bureau during the meeting.

I will like to make four points, President.

Firstly, Denmark aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union yesterday.

Secondly, I would like to reiterate Denmark's full commitment to all obligations under the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Thirdly, Denmark has pledged to work towards securing a world free of cluster munitions and Denmark was Among the first countries to ratify the CCM. Since 1992 Denmark has donated more than 310 million USD to mine action activities around the world; making Denmark among the ten largest donors in this field and let me stress in absolute numbers. Most recently, Denmark has donated 1 million USD for mine clearance in Libya. As regards mine clearance, mine risk education, advocacy and victim assistance Denmark does not differentiate between the different types of unexploded ordnance including landmines and cluster munitions.

Denmark will continue to support and provide funding for overall mine action activities including cluster munitions as well as contribute to strong international coordination and cooperation. Denmark will also continue to support both bilateral activities and multilateral organizations with un-earmarked contributions.

And fourthly President, The Danish stockpile of cluster munitions amounts to approximately 42.000 artillery shells containing a little more than 2,5 million sub-munitions. Also in this context Denmark stands fully committed to fulfil our obligations under the CCM. At the first Meeting of States Parties last year in Lao PDR, Denmark announced we would work towards having a plan for stockpile destruction ready during the course of 2011. I am pleased to report to this Meeting of States Parties that the development of a plan for destruction in accordance with article three of the convention is well under way. The stockpile destruction will at the latest begin in 2016 with an option to start sooner, primarily depending on the contractor's capability to handle this amount of

munitions. The process will be completed within the timeframe of 1st august 2018 as set out in the Convention.

President,

Let me conclude by reiterating Denmark's commitment to all obligations under the Convention, including keeping State Parties informed of all progress and actions. Let me express the hope that this very important meeting will be dealing with issues only related to the Oslo Convention and the Cluster Munitions.

Thank you for your attention.