

**Statement at 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions**

*Beirut, 12-16 September 2011*

*Mr. President/Madame Chair,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I thank you, Mr. President, for giving me the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Delegation of Viet Nam at this important Meeting. I also wish to thank you, Mr. President, and the Government of Lebanon, for your hospitality and the excellent arrangement made for this Conference. I am confident that under your stewardship, the Conference will be a success.

Allow me also to take the opportunity to congratulate H.E. Thongluon Sisoulith and the Government of Lao PDR for the tremendous contributions made during Lao PRD's presidency over the past year.

*Mr. President,*

The past ten months since the First Meeting in Vientiane have seen encouraging progress in the implementation of the Convention, as reflected in the Beirut Progress Report. We take note of the increasing number of States that have become Parties to the Convention, as well as the actions taken in accordance with the Vientiane Plan of Action in clearance, stockpile destruction, victim assistance and international cooperation. I believe the Beirut Conference will deliberate and find ways forward in responding to the challenges identified in the progress report.

*Mr. President,*

Viet Nam supports the spirit and the humanitarian and disarmament goals of the Cluster Munitions Convention. We are confident that the Convention will further strengthen international cooperation in minimizing the effects of cluster munitions and towards eliminating this weapon. Yet, as have been indicated in previous occasions, Viet Nam is yet to be in a position to accede to the Convention. We would like to make sure that we will be able to fulfill all obligations under the treaty once we accede to it. Therefore, one of the major concerns of Viet Nam is the ability to meet the clearance obligation, given the fact that clearing the 6.6 million hectares of contaminated land would take us in a best-case scenario some 50 years and tens of billions of US Dollars. In addition, there are also concerns over the fact that victims states, rather than user states, are responsible for solving consequences of the past use of cluster munitions, while the mechanisms for international cooperation has yet to be institutionalized.

Having said that, Mr. President, I would like to inform the conference that Viet Nam is developing a concrete roadmap for the consideration of accession to the Convention, and in the meantime, is taking measures largely in line with the spirit and letter of the Convention.

A comprehensive national action plan to address the post-war consequences of bombs and mines had been approved and a National Steering Committee to guide its implementation has been established,

chaired by the Prime Minister. This is a clear indication of the level of commitment on the part of the Government to addressing the effects of bombs and mines left over by the wars.

We have completed the survey and mapping of bomb and mine contaminated areas in 6 provinces and embarked on the survey and mapping in 19 others. We have also started to develop the National Mine Action Standards and to establish Mine Action Data Center. Standard Guidelines for victim assistance and information, education and communication activities are also being developed. In 2010 alone, Viet Nam has cleared over 61,000 hectares of contaminated land, nearly 99% the cost of which was born by the Government. Risk education is increasingly being conducted. And importantly, we continue to provide assistance to the 62,000 victims of bombs, mines and other ERW, including treatment, rehabilitation and support for the victims' re-integration in social and economic activities.

I take this opportunity to thank the many partners who have been working with us in these efforts and do hope that Viet Nam will continue to receive your increased cooperation and assistance.

*Madam Chair/Mr. President,*

The entry into force and operation of the CCM over the past year is a significant step forward in the international effort to eliminate cluster munitions and the unacceptable harm they produce. We look forward to our continued joint efforts in realizing the vision of a world free from cluster munitions as well as from weapons of mass destruction. Let us work together to secure a lasting peace for all.

Thank you./.