

Intervention of the Delegation of Lebanon on Universalization

CCM Inter-sessional Meeting

Geneva, April 15-18 2013

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

We recognize the excellent work of the coordinators on Universalization and their tireless for their tireless efforts in promoting adherence to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM).

Lebanon, like others, would like to congratulate Peru, Australia, Nauru, Liechtenstein, Chad and Andorra for joining the CCM.

Mr. Chairman,

Universalization is and will remain an utmost priority for Lebanon. We take this obligation very seriously, while bearing in mind the extreme and heavy cost the Lebanese populations have paid, as a result of Israel's use of cluster munitions on a large scale and deliberately targeting civilians during its 2006 aggression.

On several occasions, Lebanon stated its intention to organize and host a regional technical workshop to promote the Universalization in the Middle East region; this has not crystallized yet, given the unpredictable security situation there.

In parallel, colleagues in Beirut and in other Arab capitals, have directed their efforts towards their counterparts; A series of events back home and abroad, were held, and these provided for excellent platforms to discuss the challenges hindering adherence to CCM in the Arab region.

Mr. Chairman, the Lebanese governmental efforts in this regard would not have been the same without important contributions from the civil society organizations. In partnership with these organizations, the Lebanese Mine Action Center launched a national campaign to support the Mine Action Strategy entitled "Comprehensive support to mine and ERW victims within broader responses to injury and

disability". This campaign was launched at the Lebanese Parliament on the occasion of the international day of mine awareness and assistance in mine action.

Finally, we are entirely convinced that the Universalization of the CCM is an important and preventive measure and obligation, and all states parties should stand ready to fulfill it. From our side, we will pursue all efforts in due context with states and partners.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.