

Statement by Norway on behalf of the Coordinators on Clearance and Risk
Reduction Education
Convention on Cluster Munitions, 6MSP
6. September 2016

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Coordinators on Clearance and Risk Reduction Education
Bosnia Herzegovina and Norway, allow me to make some opening remarks as
we embark on this session of our meeting.

At the First Review Conference of the Convention one year ago, States Parties
adopted the Dubrovnik Declaration, in which we committed “to do more, for as
long as people remain at risk, to ensure that deadlines are met by declarations of
compliance, and that the rights of cluster munition victims are realised”. As
documented in the Geneva Progress Report, thirteen States parties have reported
contamination by cluster munition remnants and therefore have obligations
under Article 4.

In order to meet the goals set out in the Dubrovnik Action Plan States have
taken actions to "assess the extent of the problem", as the Action Plan stipulates.
To that extent, **Nine States parties** out of eleven with an obligation to report in
2015 have submitted their 2015 Article 7 report. **Seven States parties** have
provided information on the type of cluster munitions found in contaminated
areas, and **eight States parties** have provided information concerning the size
and/or location of contaminated areas.

Moreover, **eight States parties** reported that measures have been taken to
provide risk reduction education and/or to prevent civilian access to areas
contaminated by cluster munitions remnants. However, the reports indicate that
work remains to be done on mainstreaming gender and age sensitiveness in the
development of responses.

In addition, under the reporting period **three States parties** have reported to
have released land.

In their article 7 reports, **Nine States parties** have requested international
assistance for clearance, whilst **eleven donor States** reported having supported

clearance. In addition, in its initial transparency report just submitted, an additional State Party, namely Colombia, requests international cooperation and assistance for the implementation of obligations under Article 4.

A goal in the Dubrovnik Action Plan is "increased exchange of information of good and cost effective clearance practices including on safety, environmental impact and efficiency". To that end, the Coordinators have met with representatives of key operators during the past year to better understand existing challenges and assess ways of contributing to further progress. We have been seeking in particular to elaborate on the application of practice related to methods and technologies as called for in Action 3.7 of the Dubrovnik Action Plan.

Adequate technical and non-technical survey practices and standards are of critical importance in this regard, as good survey approaches are a precondition for gaining clarity on the location, scope and extent of contamination. This will continue to be important to us as we go forward.

Through the experience gained to date, operators have gained more insight on how best to undertake surveys and identify actual contamination. States parties have responded to the progress in operational methodologies, by elaborating on how to implement the obligations contained in the Convention concerning survey, clearance and the end-state. There is however more to be done. There are still examples of overestimations of suspected hazardous areas, resulting in a systematic waste of expensive clearance resources.

To promote cooperation and partnerships in this area, the Coordinators are in discussion with relevant States parties regarding the option of holding workshops targeting specific country situations. The workshops would convene relevant national authorities, operators and donors in a specific context to discuss experience, opportunities and remaining challenges, in close proximity to the field. Such a dialogue would aim to facilitate a strategic dialogue on ways for States Parties to meet their Article 4 deadlines, without the need to request extensions.

Thank you, Mr. President.