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Sixth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, 5-7 September 2016

Statement given under Clearance and destruction of cluster munition remnants and risk reduction education (item 8 (c) of the revised provisional agenda).

Mr. President,

We are far better placed today than when the treaty was adopted to implement Article 4 of this Convention. The mine action community has gained valuable experience and now has vastly improved, evidence-based methodologies and approaches at its disposal. We are also very much encouraged by signs of greater collaboration among the key humanitarian mine action operators.

We just heard from the Cluster Munition Coalition that clearance operations are making considerable progress in a number of affected states. Last year a slightly lower total area of land cleared, but twice the amount of submunitions were detected and destroyed. This should indicate that clearance efforts have become better targeted.

However, we still see that many affected States Parties are not on track to meet their Article 4 deadlines. Best practices and methods are of little use unless they are applied and used to inform strategic planning. We believe that we should focus more attention on country-level efforts in order to accelerate progress. National authorities, mine action operators and donors need to work together to identify and address remaining challenges. In its capacity as co-coordinator for clearance and risk reduction education, Norway hopes to be able to contribute to such efforts. We support organising workshops at country level which can bring together all relevant stakeholders to share experiences and best practice.

Mr President,

Norway remains committed to fulfilling its Article 6 obligation to assist in the implementation of the Convention, including through support for survey activities and clearance. We are currently funding humanitarian mine action in 19 countries in direct partnership with

global operators such as Norwegian People's Aid, Halo Trust and Mines Advisory Group.

We are also working with partners countries outside the Convention, and would like to highlight in particular the Global Demining Initiative for Colombia, launched in February this year by the United States and Norway. It seeks to mobilise support for humanitarian mine action as a key component of post-conflict peacebuilding in Colombia. More than 20 other countries have voiced support for this initiative. A ministerial-level pledging conference will be held in New York on 18 September in order to secure continued support for humanitarian mine action in Colombia.

Thank you.