



South African Statement to Sixth Meeting of States Parties of the Convention on Cluster Munitions

Storage and Stockpile Destruction

September 2016

Mr President

As this is the first time that my delegation takes the floor, allow me to congratulate you on your appointment as President of the Sixth Meeting of States Parties (6MSP) to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). My delegation wishes to assure you of its full support and cooperation. At this juncture we would also like to thank New Zealand for hosting the workshop on national implementation measures. We thank the coordinators on storage and stockpile destruction for the work that they have done.

Mr President

South Africa's decision to accede to the Convention was motivated by our conviction that these weapons have not only become obsolete as weapons of modern warfare, but that their recent use in conflicts have shown them to cause unacceptable harm to civilians, long after the cessation of active hostilities.

My delegation believes that we need to continue to stigmatise the use of cluster munitions as a weapon of war. We are concerned about the alleged use of cluster munitions in recent conflicts since this Convention entered into force. We call upon all States to condemn any use of cluster munitions as these continue to have negative lingering effects on the livelihoods of people particularly those who live in affected areas.

Mr President

As South Africa is still finalizing its initial report my delegation would like to provide a brief update on what it has done in respect to implementing the provisions of the Convention. In terms of stockpile destruction, South Africa has a small stockpile of aircraft-delivered cluster bombs and artillery-delivered cluster shells. South Africa has taken all prohibited cluster munitions out of commission and they have been ring-fenced for planned disposal. We hope to commence disposal of these stockpiles within the coming months.

Mr President

My delegation reaffirms its commitment to fully implement all the provisions of this worthy Convention. South Africa will continue to play an active role in partnership with other States and members of civil society towards the achievement of a cluster munitions free world.

I thank you