

Political declaration 6MSP

The Convention on Cluster Munitions is a young, vibrant and successful treaty. We now have 119 States that have committed to the Treaty, of which 100 have also ratified/acceded to it. In partnership with international organizations, expert organizations and civil society, implementation has been swift since its entry into force in 2010. Many goals have been reached in a period of just six years. The destruction of stockpiles of cluster munitions has been completed in many States or is well underway. We have also made good progress with regard to the survey and clearance of cluster munitions as well as with the assistance to victims of these weapons.

But there is more work to do.

Last year the first Review Conference took place in Dubrovnik, Croatia, where we agreed on an ambitious Action Plan to further implement and universalize the Convention and to strengthen the norm against the use of cluster munitions.

Last year the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 70/54 on the Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions with 139 States voting in favor. We welcome Somalia, Mauritius, Cuba and Palau, as the most recent States to have joined the Convention. We call upon all Signatory States to ratify the Convention as soon as possible. We also call upon all States that are not yet party to join the Convention without delay, in particular affected States, States with stockpiles of cluster munitions and States that have voted in favor of Resolution 70/54. As set out in the Dubrovnik Action Plan, our aim remains to reach 130 States Parties by the next Review Conference.

As CCM States parties we will continue to promote adherence, and to reinforce the norms established by the Convention. We will uphold our commitment to foster the humanitarian standards set by the Convention to comply with its obligations and to work for a world without cluster munitions. We remain gravely concerned and strongly condemn the continued use of cluster munitions, most notably in Syria and Yemen in the past year. In conformity with Article 21, we will continue to raise concern about any alleged use and condemn any instances of documented use by any actor. We will continue to call upon all states to immediately cease any use of these weapons and join the convention without delay.

We remain committed to assisting the victims and survivors of cluster munitions, including all persons directly impacted by cluster munitions as well as their families and communities, where appropriate, through integrated victim assistance efforts and comprehensive assistance adapted to their specific needs, whether through funding or otherwise, including through strengthening international cooperation and assistance under the provisions of the Convention. Bearing in mind the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, we are committed to providing victim assistance without discrimination of any kind on the basis of disability. We are committed to ensuring that assistance to victims is integrated into national laws,

where appropriate, policies and plans, including development, human rights and humanitarian initiatives.

In accordance with the Dubrovnik Action Plan, we undertake to employ the most appropriate innovative methodologies and techniques especially in mapping, non-technical and technical survey and clearance efforts in order to prioritize and optimize the use of limited global resources. We also remain committed to ensuring that the best principles for land release are applied, drawing fully on sector standards and good practice to more accurately determine the location, scope and extent of contamination and to address it where it is confirmed. State Parties which are in a position to do so will continue to provide international cooperation and assistance to affected States in line with the relevant actions set out in the Dubrovnik Action Plan.

An important challenge remains that of improving the rate of and compliance with transparency reporting as this provides the fundamental tool to monitor implementation progress. We, therefore, recommit to complying with this important obligation so that various aims of this provision are met including being a platform for the exchange of good practices and the promotion of cooperation and assistance in the implementation of the Convention.

Guided by the strategic roadmap outlined in the Dubrovnik Action Plan, we are determined that cluster munitions should become a thing of the past as soon as possible and in line with all time-bound commitments of States Parties, due to the unacceptable harm caused to civilians. Therefore we as CCM States Parties commit to fully implement all of our individual and collective outstanding obligations as quickly as possible and as conditions in affected states would allow in partnership with the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Cluster Munition Coalition and other non-governmental organizations, with an aim to implement all before 2030.