

**Statement by  
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**for the**

**Seventh Meeting of States Parties  
to the Convention on Cluster Munitions**

**Geneva, Switzerland  
04-06 September 2017**

Mr President,  
Distinguished Guests, Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, let me express our gratitude on behalf of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines for the opportunity to be able to participate in the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties on the Convention on Cluster Munitions. The relevance of this meeting is of great value for us to raise awareness and eventually to act in support to the implementation and the prohibitions on the use of Cluster Munitions.

Mr President,

The Philippine Government has participated in the previous meetings and expressed its full support and commitment to the global disarmament agenda. As a signatory to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, it continues to defend its position to prohibit the use, local and foreign stockpiling, investment production and transit of cluster munitions in the country.

Mr President,

Although the Philippines is not directly affected by the scourge of cluster munitions, it sees the importance to be in solidarity with other countries and its communities who have or are suffering from its adverse effects. To this date, the Philippine Government is one of the eighteen (18) Signatory States who are yet to ratify the Convention. Efforts are currently in motion to expedite the ratification process of the Cluster Munitions Convention, through the Department of Foreign Affairs. The Department has received the Certificate of Concurrence (CoC) from the Department of National Defense (DND) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and is awaiting the Certificates of Concurrence from the Department of Justice

(DOJ), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) before submitting the Instrument of Ratification to the President of the Republic of the Philippines for his signature, and later on to the Senate for its concurrence. Concerned stakeholders have been cooperative in the process and we remain positive that the Philippine Government will ultimately be part of the growing number of States Parties which have ratified the Convention.

The Philippine Government acknowledges its harmful effects both to the military and the non-combatants alike and the hazards of its remnants long after it has been used, thereby believing in the utmost importance of ratifying or acceding to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. To this end, the Philippine Government is united with countries in the region in promoting not just the country's national measures but as well as the regionalization and universalization of the Convention.

To this end, the Government of the Republic of the Philippines believes the utmost importance of the ratification and the Convention's cause, thus conveying our positive wishes for the success of this meeting and other related activities as well.

Thank you.