

Statement by the Gambian delegation

The Gambian delegation commend and congratulate the president and team for a job well done bring us together to discuss one of the most important and critical disarmament issues. We also congratulate Sirelanka and Namibia for becoming the newest member states to the convention on cluster munition.

The Gambia has ratified the convention on the 25th June 2018 and is in the process of depositing signed convention by H.E. President Adama Barrow to the United Nations.

The Gambia have never acquired cluster munitions and has no intent of doing so. We support and encourage the universalization of this convention and urge states to continue to encourage non-state parties to ratify the convention and destroy any stockpiles of cluster munitions they may have.

Mr. President, Gambia does not have cluster munition victims, however, we are very much concerned and disturbed by the continued use of these dangerous weapon in Syria, Yemen and other parts of the world.

Victims assistance provisions cannot be overstated. Victim assistance is remarkable in many ways. I hope our statements here are not just declaration of political intent but commitment.

The Gambian delegation believe that state parties should integrate implementation of the victim assistance into effective coordination mechanism. In states like Afghanistan, Yemen and Syria may lack relevant coordination bodies to coordinate effectively assistance to victims. Therefore, it is important for the international cooperation assistance be extended such states.

The production, sale and use of cluster munitions should stop and states could do more by stopping the investment in companies either state or non-state, that produce cluster munitions.

Thank you

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