



**Statement by South Africa to the Eight Meeting of States Parties of the
Convention on Cluster Munitions**
3 September 2018

[Check against delivery]

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 Eight Meeting of States Parties (8MSP) to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). My delegation wishes to assure you of its full support and cooperation.

I take this opportunity to welcome Benin, Sri Lanka and Namibia as the newest States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

I would also like to thank Croatia and Mozambique, as Coordinators on Storage and Stockpile Destruction, for the report provided and the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) for their valuable support.

Mr President

South Africa has been a long standing supporter of the Convention on Cluster Munitions which in part is informed by our commitment to multilateralism and a rules based international order but also motivated by our conviction that the use of these weapons in conflicts have shown them to cause unacceptable and lingering harm to civilian populations.

In compliance with Article 7 South Africa has submitted its Initial Transparency Report and is currently finalising its outstanding annual report to be submitted soon.

Accordingly, it is reiterated that all prohibited cluster munitions have been taken out of commission and ring fenced for planned disposal since 2015. In this regard, South Africa will comply with its obligations to destroy its stockpile of prohibited cluster munitions within the eight year time frame. The disposal of cluster munitions by the South African Department of Defence commenced in 2016 and the cluster munitions earmarked for disposal have already been integrated into the General Munitions Disposal programme.

Mr President

My delegation reaffirms its commitment to fully implement all the provisions of this worthy Convention. South Africa will continue to remain steadfast in our efforts to reinforcing the norms established by this Convention and in completing operative obligations. We would continue to play an active role, in partnership with States and members of civil society, towards the achievement of a cluster munitions free world.

I thank you