

**9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)  
2 – 4 September 2019, Geneva**

**Intervention by Sri Lanka at the thematic discussion on ‘Clearance and destruction of cluster munitions remnants and risk reduction education’ [Item 9(c)]**

Mr. President,

In our main statement we have explained some of the measures taken by Sri Lanka in the implementation of the Convention. We would continue to support advocacy and education as part of the global campaign to make the world free of cluster munitions, effectively advancing universalization and national implementation by all states parties and other actors.

We would like to reaffirm our commitment to taking specific steps in areas that are relevant for implementation since the day when the Convention came into force for Sri Lanka. In our main statement, we highlighted the submission of Sri Lanka’s Initial Transparency Report and the process adopted to explore whether adequate provisions exist in our laws to effectively implement the Convention domestically or whether a new legal enactment is required. We hope to be able to provide this information in our Annual Transparency Report, due next year, in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention.

Mr. President,

It is pertinent now to focus on two key points that are somewhat relevant for, or related to, the advancement of the objectives of this Convention. It is especially so since the objectives of this Convention are similar to those of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention, which we are implementing with a view to achieving mine-free status by 2020.

First, the Ministry of Defence has made it clear consistently, that in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and in continuation of its own commitment and policy in the past, there will be no acquisition, production, or use of cluster munitions; and the progress achieved on the ground, with the support of our international partners and implementing agencies in mine clearance, has strengthened our confidence in the continuing pursuit of humanitarian disarmament.

Secondly, building upon this commitment and advancing the objectives of the Convention further, the Ministry of Defence has directed the Sri Lankan security forces to educate all

its members on the provisions of the Convention and attendant obligations, so that there is sufficient knowledge and awareness about the importance of abiding by the Convention at all times. This directive and the educative approach that has ensued go a long way in further strengthening the wider education and awareness-building process among all segments of Sri Lankan society.

We place great importance on imparting knowledge and disseminating information on this subject and on other areas of concern arising from humanitarian disarmament treaties to which Sri Lanka is a state party. This process continues as part of peace building, even as Sri Lanka faced extreme violence manifested in the tragic terrorist attacks on the Easter Sunday this year.

I thank you, Mr. President.