



UK Mission
Geneva

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

STATEMENT: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE
CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS: NINTH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES
Delivered under agenda Item 9e 'International Cooperation and Assistance'(Article 6)

Mr President,

1. The UK aligns itself with the statement of the European Union and its Member States, and adds a few comments and general remarks in a national capacity.
2. The UK remains fully committed to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. The UK's participation in the Convention continues to be driven by our commitment to ending the suffering and casualties caused by cluster munitions. Accordingly, along with the destruction of our own cluster munitions stockpile, which we achieved in December 2013, our Article 6 commitments on international co-operation and assistance have been a central concern for us since the Convention's inception.
3. Much of this practical assistance is delivered through our £100m Global Mine Action Programme. This programme is designed to reduce the humanitarian impact of anti-personnel mines, as well as cluster munitions, and other explosive remnants of war. It does this by surveying and clearing cluster munition remnants; delivering risk education; and building national governments' capacity to manage their own ordnance clearance activities. Thereby, it improves the quality of life for people affected. We strongly believe that all support should be non-discriminatory and should aim to improve capacity in a sustainable manner. Therefore, we do not discriminate against, or among, persons with disabilities, whether they be victims of cluster munitions, anti-personnel mines, armed conflict generally, or those disabled through illness, accident or other causes.
4. The UK's Conflict, Stability and Security Fund, a cross Government global fund that tackles a broad spectrum of conflict management, also contributes to the objectives of the Convention, by ensuring security actors have the skills, incentives and checks and balances to ensure remnants of war are managed safely and effectively, and that assets are used legitimately and safely.

4. We would like to congratulate the Republic of Botswana and Switzerland on meeting their stockpile destruction obligations in advance of their deadlines. I would also like to warmly welcome Gambia, Namibia and the Philippines for whom the Convention has entered into force since the last Meeting of the States Parties. The UK calls on any states not already party to accede without delay, and the 14 signatory states to make firm their commitment.

6. In closing, let me again stress that the UK hopes our commitment and concerted, cooperative efforts in this area can and will make a real difference. I would like to assure you of the UK's continued support for achieving the Convention's goals.

Thank you Mr President.