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PERMANENT MISSION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
GENEVA

Statement by the Ambassador of the Republic of Albania to UNOG

CCM - First Review Conference
7 to 11 September 2015
Dubrovnik (Croatia)

Mr. President,
Distinguished Excellences,
Dear Friend and Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me, first of all, to express my pleasure of being here in Dubrovnik these days to present the Government of Albania in this important First Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. I like to express my gratitude also to the organizers of this event and especially to the Republic of Croatia for their excellent arrangements and warm hospitality.

Albania aligns its self with EU statement made early this afternoon.

In national capacity, I would like to express our satisfaction in witnessing that the Convention has strengthened further its significance and that more State Parties have joined our great family.

Albania ratified the convention in 16 June 2009.

As already said, but also worth mentioning that Albania has never used, produced, stockpiled or transferred Cluster Munitions. However, Albania unwillingly experienced not many years ago the dreadful consequences of the cluster munitions as result of Kosova conflict during 1998-1999.

Albania completed clearance of all its contaminated areas by cluster munitions in 2009 and people in northeast Albania can now live and work in a safe environment.

In the area of victim assistance, various projects have been undertaken and are still ongoing to support directly the injured people and at the same time to build the capacities of the health structures at local and national level to better assist the injured people.

It is never enough to emphasize that this great achievement came first as a result of the commitment and strong will of our Government to take ownership and deal with the problem and second, but not less important, our success owes a great deal to an all-inclusive cooperation of the affected and interested parties but also to the steady support of the international community, being this technical, financial or institutional.

Together with France, last year we coordinated the Stockpile destruction session of this Convention.

Our efforts in implementing the obligations under the Convention are not over though with the clearance of the contaminated areas. We are still working hard on alleviating the effects that these deadly weapons had on the innocent people who have to live still every day with the consequences of the cluster munitions. Moreover, the Government is making use of the valuable capacities created through the Mine Action Programme in other country priorities such as clearing all the ammunitions hotspots contaminated with unexploded ordnances and explosive remnants of war throughout Albania.

It is our hope and belief that with the same determination, support and assistance we will continue until we finally declare Albania free from the ammunition threat of all kinds.

I wish to this conference every success.

Thank you!

Filloreta KODRA
Ambassador