

Mr. President,

I would like to start by the expression of our gratitude to the Government of Croatia for hosting the First Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). At the same time, let me assure you Mr. President, of the support of my delegation in your endeavour to reach a successful and consensual outcome of this meeting.

As the Czech Republic fully subscribes to the statement of the European Union, I will limit my intervention to only a few points from the national perspective.

The Czech Republic belongs to the initial signatories of the CCM and since the very beginning supports all endeavours related to the implementation of the Convention. We did never use cluster munitions in any military operation. Moreover, the Czech Republic removed all existing stockpiles of cluster munitions by the year 2006. During the period 2004 – 2010, all cluster munitions were destroyed in an environment friendly manner. Currently, the Czech Republic retains, in consistence with paragraph 6 of Article 3 of CCM, only 67 pieces of explosive submunitions with no air or surface-fired means of delivery. That represents a further considerable decrease in comparison with 185 pieces reported last year and almost 800 pieces at the end of 2010. Those explosive submunitions have been used strictly for training of Explosive Ordnance Disposal specialists in detection, clearance and destruction techniques of cluster munitions.

One of the key objectives of the Convention is the universalisation. In this context, please let me welcome all new states parties to the CCM.

Mr. President,

My country has always been actively supporting the main goals of the Convention: prohibition of use, production, stockpiling and transfer of the cluster munitions, clearance of contaminated land, destruction of stockpiles and victims assistance. We fully subscribe to the Dubrovnik Action Plan to be adopted here and we stand ready to support its effective implementation.

Thank you, Mr. President.