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INTEGRATION OF MONTENEGRO**

Mr. President,

It is a great honour to address today on behalf of Montenegro. Allow me at the outset to warmly congratulate and thank to Croatia for hosting this First Review Conference. Montenegro aligned with the statement of the European Union. In addition, I would like to highlight certain points of particular importance to Montenegro.

Since the very beginning of the Oslo process, our countries were gathered around the same, humanitarian goal: protection of civilians through the adoption and universalization of an international legally binding instrument aimed to prohibit cluster munitions which are causing unacceptable humanitarian harm. Now, five years since its adoption, we are in a position to review the achievements and progress made so far, and to discuss about the pending tasks and following steps that will strengthen its future implementation.

Montenegro has been actively participating and supporting the whole process which led to the concrete and efficient activities conducted with the aim to comply with all obligations prescribed under the provisions of the Convention, especially in the fields of clearance, stockpile destruction and victim assistance. We can be proud of the fact that entire stockpile of cluster munitions Montenegro possessed was destroyed within the first year of the entry into force of the Convention. As a country whose certain areas were directly affected with cluster munitions in the past, significant progress has been achieved in exploration of the areas suspected to contain unexploded ordnance as well as in identifying, disabling and destruction of all unexploded ordnance found, in a safe and secure way. However, being aware that there are still more challenges to be met in future period, Montenegro is working on the project aimed at the total clearance of contaminated areas at its territory.

On the same hand, convinced that the victim assistance represents one of the equally essential components of the Convention, national laws and policies of Montenegro guarantee protection and prescribe assistance measures, medical care, support, and social and economic assistance.

Mr. President,

Although significant achievements during the first five years of implementation have been made, this should be considered only as the first step. In a period to come, states should continue to place a very high priority on ridding the world of cluster munitions. One of the most important activities towards the achievement of this goal should be increasing adherence and promoting the universalization of the Convention, in order to make sure that this instrument truly becomes the universal one, with broad and effective application. We have to create conditions to ensure the CCM continue to serve the best function, keeping in mind international peace and security and necessity to eliminate humanitarian consequences and immediate threat for civilians in affected areas around the globe.

In the field of stockpile destruction, survey and risk reduction activities, five years since entry into force of the Convention, we have seen significant difference on the ground. But, there is still more work to be done. Challenges brought before both State parties and States non-parties are partially caused by economic and financial problems. For this reason, we have to continue working towards strengthening mechanisms for interaction and cooperation amongst States parties, international organisations and civil society, due to the fact that only through the shared assistance, practices and joint action, these obstacles could be overcome. On the same hand, Convention on Cluster Munitions, which is bearing humanitarian and disarmament issues simultaneously, should be used for promoting and developing synergies in the implementation of other instrument which are sharing the same universal principles.

Mr. President,

Montenegro welcomes the adoption of Dubrovnik action plan. We are strongly convinced that the achievements and the recommendations of the Vientiane Action plan, as well as lessons learned, which are now incorporated into this new document should guide our collective efforts in the further implementation of the Convention, with the ultimate goal of a world free of cluster munitions.

Finally, I would like to reiterate commitment of Montenegro towards our common objective of building peace and security and reaching humanitarian objectives. In this light, I would like to reaffirm our strong support for the Convention on Cluster Munitions, and welcome all the efforts to strengthen it. We are firmly convinced that this specific momentum should be used to even improve this international instrument which should be considered as a road map to a world free of cluster munitions.

Thank you!