



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND EUROPEAN INTEGRATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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STATEMENT
by Mr. Gheorghe Leucă
Head of the delegation of the Republic of Moldova
at the First Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions
Dubrovnik, 7 – 11 September 2015
Agenda item 8: General exchange of views

Mr. President,

Allow me first of all to take this opportunity and congratulate you on behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Moldova upon your election as chair of the First Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and to wish you every success in performing this responsible and highly honourable duty.

I am also particularly pleased to extend our gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Croatia for its hospitality and excellent organisation of the Conference.

The Republic of Moldova aligns itself to the statement made earlier by the distinguished representative of the European Union and I will add some remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. President,

While all the weapons are inhuman cluster munitions are among the most terrible ones. It is very painful to acknowledge that so many sites are still seeded with unexploded cluster bomblets and to read reports on the casualties caused to peaceful people and innocent children by these deadly remnants. But, the most deplorable is that these weapons are still produced, used in conflicts and can be found on roads, footpaths, farmer's fields, in the forests, deserts, along borders, in and surrounding houses and schools, and in other places where people carry out their daily activities.

Merely these facts, including the recent use of such weapons in some countries, and not even mentioning the other extremely adverse consequences caused by cluster munitions, leave no doubts on the stringent imperative for the total ban, destruction and elimination of cluster munitions, objectives that fall under the very scope of the Cluster Munitions Convention.

To advance in achieving these goals, the promotion and implementation of all the provisions of the Convention on Cluster Munitions must continuously remain in the spotlight of the entire international community, and the joint and concerted practical measures are to further be enhanced at all levels, by the Governments, civil society, international and non-governmental organizations and partners.

Mr. President,

These days at the First Review Conference we have the opportunity not only to assess the progress achieved on the Convention, but also to identify challenges and further steps towards its universalisation and implementation.

We have already heard about the new states that have joined the Convention since the last meeting, thus bringing closer its universalisation, the crucial condition for the effective prohibition of cluster munitions in the world.

We have also learned about the accomplishments of many States Parties and other stakeholders in carrying out the main provisions of the Convention, as well as about their views on future actions. This cannot but inspire confidence that we are keeping the right path.

I am delighted to recall in this respect that the Republic of Moldova has actively participated in the Oslo Process from the very beginning and taken part in the codification of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, my country being among the first 30 states to ratify the Convention and making possible its entry into force on August 1, 2010.

Especially to be highlighted is that along this time, my country has undertaken concrete steps towards the implementation of the Convention, succeeding in destroying all the stockpiles of cluster munitions and of anti-personnel mines, deposited on the territory under the constitutional control of the Moldovan Government, prior to the entry into force of the Convention, thus becoming one of the first countries that has completely liquidated its stocks of this kind of munitions.

The substantial support provided by the non-governmental organisation “Norwegian People’s Aid” and the OSCE Mission to the Republic of Moldova in carrying out this noble mission is not only an excellent example of successful collaboration in the field between governmental and non-governmental organisations, but also a confirmation of the importance and impact of the international cooperation and assistance in eliminating cluster munitions.

My country will further contribute to the accomplishment of the objectives of the Convention and will support the efforts of the States Parties and international partners directed to strengthening the implementation of its provisions in all their aspects. Particularly, supporting the humanitarian goal of the convention we plead for the sustainable assistance to the victims of cluster munitions.

It is our conviction that the collective efforts, clear focus and perspectives, the adequate resources and sustained cooperation between governments, international organisations and civil society will ensure overcoming the challenges impeding the Convention implementation and will bring States Parties closer to liberating the world from cluster munitions.

We also consider that the development, adoption and implementation of the new Action Plan is the right logical step in that direction and we hope that along with the progress achieved so far, the outcome of the Review Conference will encourage countries which have not done so to become full-fledged States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions and prohibit the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of this kind of weaponry.

Finally, Mr. President, I would like to wish us a successful Review Conference and look forward to the adoption of the Dubrovnik Action Plan which is clearly setting practical steps and will guide future actions towards the universalisation and implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Thank you.