

Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)

At First, I would like to compliment the Government of the Republic of Croatia for hosting this very important conference in a befitting manner.

2. My special thanks to all the organizers present here.

3. I bring from my country the greetings and best wishes for the people of all the countries represented here today.

4. I have indeed been enlightened by the views of my colleagues in the formal speeches as well as their informal discussions.

5. Pakistan realizes the human aspects and sufferings related to the use of not only cluster Munitions, but also other forms of Munitions. However, certain states have their legitimate security needs and concerns, keeping in view their peculiar security environment.

6. As a matter of principle, Pakistan does not support efforts to conclude important international treaties, especially those related to arms control, outside the UN framework.

7. Pakistan feels that the multilateral framework of the “Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)” is the most appropriate forum for considering the issue of cluster munitions which adequately addresses most of the concerns related to the use of certain convention weapons. The strength of the CCW lies in its legal framework that strikes the delicate balance between the need to minimize human suffering without sacrificing the legitimate security interests of states. Pakistan participated actively and constructively in the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) under the CCW framework in 2011, which held substantive discussions on a draft Protocol on Cluster Munitions. It is unfortunate that the negotiating process bore no fruit in the end.

8. Pakistan considers cluster munitions as legitimate weapons with recognized military value in our regional context. We, therefore, look at the military utility of cluster munitions differently from states that enjoy a peaceful neighborhood.

9. Pakistan supports international efforts to address the issue of irresponsible and indiscriminate use of cluster munitions, and as such welcomes efforts to mitigate their negative consequences. Pakistan has never used cluster munitions in any military conflict or internal operations, and is opposed to their use against civilians. Strict adherence to the International Humanitarian Law would help address the humanitarian concerns arising from the indiscriminate use of cluster munitions. Pakistan also supports efforts for improving reliability of cluster munitions so that the threat posed by unexploded cluster munitions after the war (explosive remnants of war) is addressed.

10. In the end, I wish to thank you for your very patient hearing and I will continue to benefit from the formal and informal discussions during the coming sessions.
