

Second Meeting of States Parties
To The
Convention on Cluster Munitions
(12 – 16 September 2011, Beirut, Lebanon)

General Statement by the Republic of Cyprus

Mr. President

Mme Chair

Cyprus would like to extend its congratulations to Lebanon for the excellent organization and hosting of the Second Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Cyprus is a signatory of this very important Convention on Cluster Munitions and hopes soon to become a State Party. The ratification Law of the Convention has been recently deposited at the Parliament, where ratification is expected next year.

Since 2009 Cyprus Aid has donated 300.000 Euros for clearing cluster munitions remnants in the South of Lebanon. The clearing operations are organized by the ITF (International Trust Fund). Through the ITF, Cyprus Aid is supporting one battle clearance team for a period of seven months in 2011.

In November 2010, the ITF signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Cyprus Aid for the support of a Humanitarian Mine Action Program in Lebanon; Dan Church Aid (DCA) continued its successful cluster munitions clearance operations in South Lebanon.

Unfortunately demining is not a stranger to the island of Cyprus where it still claims lives. The tragic events of 1974 left behind many landmine fields which are not as yet fully demined. Most minefields in the buffer zone and over 25.000 mines from an area of 9.5 sq. km have been cleared by the UN Mine Action Center in Cyprus.

Once again, I would like to thank Lebanon for the excellent organization of the Second Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, following its entry into force.

Thank you.