

UK UNIVERSALISATION STATEMENT, CCM 2MSP, BEIRUT, 14
SEPTEMBER

Mr. Chairman,

Please let me begin by extending thanks to you Mr Chairman and distinguished Japanese colleagues for overseeing this important session on universalisation and for the work of the Government of Japan in advancing this agenda.

Mr Chairman

We believe that promotion of the Convention to those who have yet to accede or ratify is critical to achieving the maximum humanitarian effect of the Convention, as well as consolidating its international legal standard. I am particularly happy therefore to congratulate the 17 States who have ratified or acceded to the Convention since our meeting in Vientiane.

We look forward to a fruitful discussion on universalisation today, and hope that we can increase the value of co-ordination between states in our work to promote the convention. The UK will continue to use all appropriate opportunities, be they bilateral or multilateral, to promote the Convention. In order to maximise the impact of our universalisation work we must, however, recognise and adapt our strategies to take into account the different circumstances of non-signatories and explore what we as States parties can do to help overcome any constraints.

Stigmatising the illegal use of cluster munitions must remain central in achieving our aim of a global ban. As the Beirut declaration usefully

notes, we should continue to denounce and deplore the use of cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians.

As we announced at June's intersessional we are working with the CMC to arrange a Commonwealth universalisation event in London in October, opened by Lord Howell Minister of State, and using the momentum of this meeting to raise further the profile of the Convention. In addition, we are considering using the upcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Perth, as another means of encouraging fellow Commonwealth Countries, not yet States Parties, to join the Convention.

We would be very happy to discuss these two initiatives with Commonwealth Countries or other interested parties. We also urge all states to similarly consider how they might use their own networks of interest to promote the Convention.

Thank You.