



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Statement by S. Nooruddin Hashemi

Counsellor for disarmament,

Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the UNOG

Convention on Cluster Munitions

First Review Conference

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Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honored and pleased to congratulate H.E. Zoran Milanovich, the Prime Minister of Croatia, on assuming the role of President of the First Review Conference Convention on Cluster Munitions (IRC CCM).

We thank the host country of republic of Croatia for the warm and perfect hospitality. It is fantastic that the IRC CCM is being held here in beautiful and historic city of Dubrovnik.

I also would like to welcome the new States Parties, in particular the newest States Parties to the CCM, Canada, Guinea, Guyana, Iceland, Palestine, Paraguay, Rwanda, Slovakia and South Africa and Colombia that announced today. Every new members takes us closer to a cluster munition free world.

I take this opportunity to mention that due to ongoing conflicts since 1979, Afghanistan is one of the most affected by landmines and explosive remnants of war including Cluster Munitions.

As a State Party to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, Afghanistan remains highly committed to tackle challenges ahead of us and to get rid of cluster munitions, and to promote rights and address the needs of all cluster munitions victims.

In recent years, the Government of Afghanistan has made some significant progresses in order to meet its obligations against the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

In the area of victim assistance, various projects have been undertaken and are still ongoing to support directly the injured people and at the same time to build the capacities of the health structures at local and national level to better assist the cluster munitions survivors and other people with disabilities.

Victim assistance is an obligation on which we always have been putting efforts to ensure all survivors' needs are effectively addressed.

Afghanistan has participated actively in all of the convention's meetings, and together with Bosnia & Herzegovina, coordinated the Victim Assistance Committee of this Convention from 2012 to 2014.

Given the fact that these indiscriminate weapons continue taking lives and limbs of Afghanistan, vast majority of whom are civilians including children and women. We continue raising people's awareness on the dangers of mines, ERW and cluster munitions.

It is notable that for the sake of sustainability, now mines risk education package is included in the school curriculum.

We are working with the Ministry of Education to include mines risk education in the curriculum of Teacher Training Institutes.

However, we have a long way to go to fully and effectively address all the needs of cluster munitions, landmine and ERW victims in the country.

Mr. President,

As several speakers noted today and yesterday that the Convention on Cluster Munitions is one of the success stories in disarmament, a lot of positive steps have been taken in the past few years and much more need to be done in future.

Therefore, we support the outcome documents of the First Review Conference, including condemnation of any cluster munitions use, by any actor through the Political Declaration and Dubrovnik Action Plan, which will adopt this week.

The Political Declaration and Dubrovnik Action Plan address these issues in a comprehensive way and provide us with an action oriented roadmap for the next 5 years.

All States Parties should join hands to end all suffering caused by these indiscriminate and inhumane weapons.

We need to support and accelerate our joint activities for full universalization of the CCM. As a State Party, Afghanistan is encouraging all states not party, in particular states not party in Asia to join the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is time to send out a strong message through this conference against Cluster Munitions, and reaffirm our collective commitments for a world, free of Cluster Munitions in the near future.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to thank the donors for their generous contributions in support of mine action programme of Afghanistan. We would like to continue our partnerships with all stakeholders involved in mine action.

I wish the First review conference every success.

Thank you Mr. President.