

**Second Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions
Beirut, 12-16 September 2011**

Clearance and Destruction of Cluster Munition Remnants

Statement by Ireland, 15 September 2011

Madam President,

I would like to thank Australia for its excellent work as Friend of the President on clearance and my delegation welcomes the paper submitted to this meeting entitled the 'Application of all available methods for the efficient implementation of Article 4'. This paper reflects the consistent work of the Australian Delegation over the past two years. It provides States Parties and future Coordinators on clearance with a firm basis for advancing the work of the Convention by identifying effective methods for the release of land by both non-technical and technical methods and for the removal of cluster munition remnants from contaminated areas. The paper correctly identifies the need for a flexible approach to both land release and the clearance of contaminated areas and points in particular to the difference in approach required between clearance of landmines and the clearance of cluster munition remnants. We also recognise that in some instances there can be significant differences between the nature of cluster contamination and contamination of other ERW. We have no hesitation therefore in strongly commending this paper to the meeting and in particular the recommendations set out in paragraphs 10-14.

Madam President

Ireland regards Article 4 as a key provision of the Convention and was honoured to chair discussions on this issue throughout the Oslo process leading to the negotiation of the CCM.

Irish Defence Forces personnel have been dealing with cluster munition remnants since the 1970s in many affected areas including Lebanon, Kosovo and Eritrea, and Ireland continues to place a high priority on the maintenance and development of national clearance and detection capabilities.

Ireland has consistently funded mine action activities, including cluster munition clearance programmes, for more than two decades.

In line with this long-standing commitment to clearance Ireland would be happy to accept a position as CCM Coordinator on Clearance for two years as proposed in the draft decision paper.

Madam President

The target of 10 years for completion of clearance set out in Article 4 is an ambitious one and we recognise that a small number of very heavily affected states may require additional time to complete this work. However the target of ten years is achievable for most affected States provided the work is tackled in a timely and focused manner with appropriate support from international donors. In that context Lebanon's impressive progress in clearance is highly pertinent. This progress has been achieved by an impressive and well coordinated mix of national resources, international organisations and specialist NGOs. The Australian paper has provided affected states with an excellent framework for undertaking land release and clearance projects. This is an area where the CCM has already generated impressive momentum and where the Convention can demonstrate tangible achievements which can help to significantly advance the goal of its universalisation. My delegation is happy to play its role in helping to maintain this momentum.

Thank you Madam President.