



INTERNATIONAL TRUST FUND

STATEMENT

BY

Mr. Dorijan Maršič

Director

**International Trust Fund for Demining
and Mine Victims Assistance (ITF)**

AT THE

**2nd Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster
Munitions**

12 – 16 September 2011, Beirut, Lebanon

Mr President your Excellency Dr. Al-Chami, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance (ITF), I'm honored to be present at the Second meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, the convention, which entered into force as binding international law on 1 August 2010, clearly demonstrating that the signatories are resolute in their determination to ban the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of cluster munitions the destruction of stockpiles, the clearance of affected land and the provision of assistance to victims and affected communities.

ITF also welcomes the decision of government of Lebanon to host such an important meeting, Lebanon being one of the most contaminated countries by unexploded cluster bombs and explosive remnants of war. Holding such a meeting in an affected country will help government officials and other participants effectively continue to translate the treaty into action. ITF has recognized serious problem of ERW contamination in Lebanon and is actively contributing to the eradication of the problem.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

ITF would like to emphasize that from the perspective of an organization dealing with the implementation on the ground, clearance of cluster munitions was and will continue to be an integral part of project implementation activities.

I would like to use this opportunity to briefly inform the chairmanship of the Convention, the States Parties to the Convention and all participants on the already implemented activities supported through the ITF related to cluster munitions clearance.

ITF has been active in the field of cluster munition clearance since 2003 and is primarily engaged in clearance operations of areas and territories contaminated with cluster munition and in the field of providing assistance and rehabilitation to cluster munition victims.

The majority of cluster munition clearance by ITF has been completed in Serbia (Niš, Kraljevo, Kopaonik) where ITF carried out 21 cluster munitions clearance projects during the 2003-2011 period, clearing almost 4.24 square

kilometers. In 2011 alone, ITF managed to clear over 450.000 sq.meters of cluster munitions/UXO contaminated land in Serbia.

Since 2007 ITF is supporting general (re) survey in this country, implemented together with Norwegian People's Aid and Mine Action Centre of Serbia. It is predicted that with the completion of this survey some 17 square kilometres would be left still affected with cluster munitions.

ITF plans that, with sufficient donor support, Serbia could be cluster munitions-free by 2013/14.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina ITF executed 18 cluster munitions clearance projects in 2000-2010 period, clearing almost 430.000 square meters country-wide. In order to assist in meeting the obligations and deadlines from the Convention of Cluster Munitions, NPA Bosnia and Herzegovina conducted (01 January 2011-30 January 2011) a general survey of contamination and impact of cluster munitions remnants. The survey project was financially supported by the United States Department of State through the ITF.

In 2011 CyprusAid through ITF continued support of battle area clearance activities of INGO DanChruchAid (DCA) in South Lebanon as in 2010, clearing a total of 150.000 square meters, recovering 346 cluster munitions. ITF has already secured additional funding donated by United States of America to help support DCA cluster clearance activities until the end of 2011. ITF is looking for additional funding to secure DCA landmine and cluster munitions clearance operations in Lebanon.

ITF has also been active in other cluster munitions contaminated countries like Albania, Croatia, Montenegro and Kosovo since 2003.

On behalf of the ITF I would like to use this opportunity to thank all donors, for their undivided support in eradicating cluster munitions problem worldwide.

All ITF activities, including those related to cluster munitions problem, would not be possible without the generous support of the donor community.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me conclude my statement by expressing ITF's preparedness to continue support cluster munitions clearance activities globally as well as actively contributing to implementation of Convention on Cluster Munitions to reach the end goal – World free of Cluster Munitions.

Thank you for your attention.