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GRENADA

STATEMENT

BY

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AT THE

**SECOND MEETING OF STATES PARTIES
TO THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS**

BEIRUT, 12 – 16 SEPTEMBER 2011

Madam President,

As it is the first time that my delegation is taking the floor, let me take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election to chair this very important Second Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Let me also take this opportunity to thank you, your Government and the people of the Republic of Lebanon for the warm hospitality extended to my delegation and all of the delegations present here this week.

I wish to recognise the Lebanese Government for the great importance and emphasis placed on the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Madam President,

Grenada is delighted to be participating in its first meeting of States Parties having acceded to the Convention on June 29th 2011.

It is our hope that with our accession to this Convention, we would be able to inspire all the other countries within the Caribbean Community to do same.

Madam President,

My country has never produced, stock piled or engaged in the use of cluster munitions. Grenada is a small island developing state known mostly for its beautiful beaches and abundance of spices. My country however, rose to prominence on the world stage during the US led invasion in 1983.

Madam President,

During the 1983 invasion of Grenada, the United States dropped twenty-one (21) MK-20 Rockeye cluster bombs containing a total of 5,187 bomblets.

What is more alarming Madam President is that most of the known contaminated areas are fastly becoming residential areas.

Madam President,

Twenty-eight years after these bombs were dropped on Grenada, they remain embedded in our land. Due to capacity constraints however, my country has been unable to survey and clear contaminated areas. Further, there is limited public knowledge and awareness on the presence of these deadly mechanisms.

Madam President,

My country would therefore request your assistance, the assistance of the friends of the president and the assistance of all other states parties as it attempts to fulfill the objectives of the convention. Further, Grenada seeks assistance both technical and financial for implementation of the Treaty and for the clearing of all contaminated areas.

Madam President,

Grenada notes that in the Caribbean Community only four (4) countries have signed the Convention, while only three (3) have gone on to become state parties. Accordingly, Grenada recognises how important it is for the the whole Caribbean region to be included in this process, thereby maintaining its reputation as a region that champions disarmament causes on the international arena. Grenada therefore, undertakes to play a leading role in promoting the accession and or ratification of the Convention throughout the Caribbean region and welcomes the cooperation of other Member States and civil society organisations in our efforts.

In conclusion, Grenada reiterates its continued commitment to the universality of the convention and look forward to further deliberation as the week progresses.

I thank you, Madam President.