

Second Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions
General Exchange of Views – Tuesday 13 September 2011
Statement by Ireland

Madam President,

May I thank you and the Government of Lebanon for your warm hospitality and efficient organisation of this meeting. Ireland is proud to have worked very closely with Lebanon, and with you personally Ambassador Assaker, in the process which led to the adoption of the CCM and we are delighted to be here in Beirut for this Second Meeting of States Parties. It is inspiring to see so many States represented here, particularly so many States which have been affected by cluster munitions. It is heartening also to see many States present which have not yet signed the Convention. We welcome the seventeen ratifications since we met in Vientiane last November and the indications that a number of other States will soon accede.

Ireland also fully associates itself with the statement delivered this morning on behalf of the European Union.

Madam President

This Second Meeting of States Parties is a critical week in the life of the CCM. It is a time when we look at the arrangements we agreed to last year, see how they are working and begin to make them more structured and formal. In Ireland's view, the draft Beirut Declaration captures the essence of our shared political vision. The draft Progress Report represents a good snapshot of what we have achieved since our meeting in Vientiane and an excellent basis for work in the year ahead to our next meeting in Oslo with the decisions we will take this week here in Beirut.

Ireland's practical commitment to co-operation and assistance to affected States is clear. Our long and close association with Lebanon over many years has made us particularly cognisant of the depth and extent of the challenges facing those States who have suffered the unacceptable humanitarian consequences of cluster munitions.

The inspiring presentations at last evening's opening ceremony and this morning and the field visit yesterday leave us in no doubt of the challenges and urgency of the work ahead. Let us renew our commitment, in the words of the Convention, to put an end for all time to the suffering and casualties caused by cluster munitions.

We look forward to contributing further to the work of this meeting throughout the days to come

I thank you, Madam President.