



Lebanese Republic
2MSP
12-16/9/2011

Intervention of Lebanese delegation to the Second Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions

Item no [] on General Exchange of Views

Thank you Madam President,

Excellencies, colleagues and friends,

Having heard from H.E. the President of the Republic General Michael Suleiman last evening and also this morning from H.E. Dr. Adnan Mansour the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants, I don't feel I can say more, but simply to welcome you again and again in Lebanon. I feel obliged to thank you for all your words of praise and encouragement; your presence made the conference a success, it is nice to be together.

Here we, State representatives and the Lebanese people are all delighted to see you among us in Beirut, in Nabatiyyeh and in Sarafand to share with us moments where pain and joy are present at the same time.

A majority of you had the chance to meet both yesterday during the field visits; The pain emanating from the use of Cluster munitions against the local populations of the southern part of this small country, when in 2006 we were gifted 4 million submunitions, a bomb to each Lebanese national living on this soil. To see victims and survivors is not something that pleases any one of us. And it is painful to see arable and other lands contaminated by remnants and are rendered useless.

At the same time, we are pleased to see how those appalling events have helped the international community stand firm against this weapon, and commit in Oslo in 2007 to put an end to the human suffering caused by the use of this horrendous and inhumane weapon. We are also consoled by the words of survivors like those we heard in the opening ceremony yesterday, who say that even if their lives have changed for good, they stand strong with the conviction to work for a better world and indeed as the motto of our conference, ***work "together for a safer life"***.

The CCM is a huge achievement that we all should be proud of. Although we, as other affected states, have worked on the ground from the start to address the consequences of contamination and the effects on affected communities, the CCM has helped Lebanon address the problem in a more systematic manner, and the preventive nature of the convention and the norm the treaty is establishing will help us ensure that such tragedies never happen again. This is another reason why we are enchanted. The support of the international community and international governmental and non-governmental organizations is something we highly appreciate. The spirit of partnership is something we want to see



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continue in our future undertakings so as to ensure that victims and innocents receive the proper care they are entitled to and need.

In this context, the delegation of Lebanon would like to express its appreciation for the announcement of the distinguished delegation of Italy, on Italy's decision to finance a new project on Cluster Munitions Clearance in Lebanon this year. Thank you Italy.

Madam President,

The leadership of Lao DPR and other affected countries is a highlight of this process, and here we want to congratulate once again our Lao friends for having successfully hosted the First Meeting of States Parties and also for having steered our efforts relentlessly during their presidency. Our friends of the president have been critical to our overall success, and on behalf of this delegation I would like to warmly thank them. While we are hanging this painting resembling our efforts for the last year on the wall, we look forward to work hand in hand with the next presidency, and with our coordinators who will lead us through the more thematic work together with all concerned partners.

The CCM, which is still young, requires utmost care from us. Its bones are getting stronger with each and every act of ratification or accession, and here we congratulate all States that have joined our efforts with the aim of eradicating this weapon and fulfilling our common tasks. We also urge all signatories and other States to adhere to the humanitarian pillars on which this Convention stands.

We condemn the recent use of cluster munitions in South-east Asia and in Libya. Such acts run counter to the spirit and aim of the CCM. Having examined the preliminary reports of these incidents, we see that civilians once again bore the brunt of these acts. We call on all states that are not in a position to join the CCM now, to take interim national measures to halt use, transfers, and production of this weapon, pending their full membership of the CCM.

We urge you all to work with us in our endeavor to eradicate once and for all, the humanitarian consequences caused by cluster munitions.

Again, we are delighted to have so many of you here and look forward to a successful Second Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

I thank you Madam President.



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