

updated



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND EUROPEAN INTEGRATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Check against delivery

STATEMENT
by Mr. Victor Moraru
Head of the delegation of the Republic of Moldova
at the First Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions
Beirut, Lebanon, 12 – 16 September 2011
Agenda item 9: General exchange of views

Mr. President,

First of all, let me congratulate you on behalf of the Moldovan delegation on your election to chair this important meeting. My delegation is convinced that under your able leadership the participants will achieve considerable progress in their work.

Let me also thank the Lebanese Government for hosting the Second Meeting of the States Parties. Being aware of the importance of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) for the Lebanon, one of the most severely affected States, we appreciate very much Lebanese leadership and contribution in its implementation.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

Today we are brought together by a historic treaty, one signed by 109 States and so far ratified by 61. The very fact that in a relatively short period of time it has been already signed or ratified by so many countries proves that international community is committed to “end the suffering caused by the cluster munitions once and for all”.

While the global community has rallied to rid the world of cluster munitions, much needs to be done. Continued dedication will be required to ensure that the existing cluster munitions stocks are destroyed and unexploded sub-munitions and bomblets removed from the ground. A long-term commitment is necessary to address the life-long care and rehabilitation needs of cluster munitions survivors.

Significant countries still remain outside of the Convention. Their contribution to the global effort is required in order that the Convention lives up to its humanitarian promise.

Many of the 61 States that have joined the Convention find themselves in complex security environments and some of them, with important obligations as part of military alliances. Yet they have all accepted that the disastrous humanitarian impact of these weapons greatly outweighs their marginal military utility.

This was precisely the case of my own country. Recognizing the major danger posed by cluster munitions, the Republic of Moldova supported the Oslo Process, took part in the codification of the CCM, signed and ratified the Convention and extended its share of contribution to the process of effective implementation of this instrument. Already at the First Meeting of the States Parties in Vientiane the Republic of Moldova announced that it had completed, in an environmentally friendly way, the destruction of its entire stockpile of cluster munitions.

Mr. President,

There has been repeatedly observed that the Oslo process which culminated with the adoption and entry into force of CCM has led to a review of cluster-munition policy in many States not Party that share the underlying humanitarian concerns associated with cluster munitions but are not yet ready to adhere.

The Republic of Moldova would be pleased to see the negotiations on a CCW Protocol on cluster munitions develop in a way that would further strengthen international humanitarian law. The conclusion of a new CCW Protocol, complementary and compatible with the CCM, could prevent the proliferation and use of cluster munitions in various parts of the world which remain outside the Convention.

The cluster munition use in 2011, which was condemned by many states, including Moldova was another grief reminder of the importance of our declared goal to work “together for a safer life”. We must work together to ensure universalization not just of the Convention, but of the new international norm it has established, where any use, stockpiling, production and transfer of prohibited cluster munitions by any state or non-state actor is rejected and condemned.

Mr. President,

The First Meeting of States Parties ended successfully with governments agreeing on a five-year action plan to turn legal obligations into concrete actions. The Beirut Progress Report, submitted by the President of the First Meeting, highlights both the achievements reached so far and the challenges lying ahead.

Our specific task at this Second Meeting of States Parties is to consider additional decisions on implementation architecture and means to coordinate the work of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. My delegation believes that the June informal intersessional meeting was very productive. We were particularly satisfied with the comprehensive exchange of information and ideas on how best to implement and universalize the Convention.

We welcome the President’s Discussion Paper as a basis for our work. In broad terms, the Republic on Moldova supports an outcome that recognizes the value of regular informal intersessional meetings. And further, we support the proposed implementation mechanism that comprises six Working Groups, working group and thematic coordinators, a Coordination Committee and an Implementation Support Unit.

We share the view that the draft documents, which are before us today, provide the right framework for an effective coordination of the CCM's work.

We also support the proposed *Beirut Declaration* and the proposal to meet in Oslo next year for the Third Meeting of States Parties.

Mr. President,

It is rightly noticed that the success of our Convention will be measured by the difference it makes on the ground. During the field trips to Southern Lebanon we had the possibility to see the great work that is being done to end the suffering caused by cluster munitions.

This particular experience has reinforced our belief that with the right resources, a clear focus, and sustained cooperation between governments, international organizations and civil society we can solve this problem here in Lebanon and all around the world.

In conclusion, I wish to stress that the Republic of Moldova fully identifies with the statement of the European Union made earlier by the distinguished representative of the EU Council.

Thank you, Mr. President.