

**Statement by  
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for the

**“Second Meeting of States Parties  
to the Convention on Cluster Munitions”**

**Beirut, Lebanon  
12-16 September 2011**

Mr. President,  
Distinguished guests, Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, please allow me to convey on behalf of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines, our warmest congratulations on your election as President of the “Second Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions,” and to thank the Government of Lebanon for its generous hospitality in the hosting of this meeting. We also acknowledge the very able presidency of the Convention last year of our ASEAN colleague, the Lao PDR.

The convening of this Meeting is timely as there is an urgent need to generate greater global awareness and support for the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Mr. President,

The Philippine Government considers the Convention on Cluster Munitions as a landmark treaty that promotes International Humanitarian Law. It is notable that the Convention on Cluster Munitions is the second treaty to uphold the tenets of International Humanitarian Law following the signing and successful launch of the Anti-Personnel Landmines Convention in 1997. The Convention on Cluster Munitions is a remarkable achievement that reflects the successful partnership among States and civil society.

The Philippine Government takes pride in its active involvement in the negotiations that led to the successful conclusion of the Convention on Cluster Munitions that was signed by the Philippine Government on December 3, 2008 in Oslo, Norway. Through this gesture, the Philippine Government signified its utmost concern over the unacceptable harm wrought by the indiscriminate use of cluster munitions, especially to civilians and non-combatants alike.

Mr. President,

The Philippine Government has consistently espoused in international for a its commitment to advance the global disarmament agenda on all levels, from weapons of mass destruction to conventional and improvised weapons. The Philippine Government’s support for the Convention on Cluster Munitions is part of that commitment. The Philippines chaired the 2010 Group of Governmental Experts for the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons that dealt with the issues of cluster munitions and other conventional weapons. As a signatory to the Convention

on Cluster Munitions, the Philippines continues to uphold the position not to use, produce, stockpile nor supply cluster munitions.

At the national level, the Philippine Congress has passed into law implementing legislation on International Humanitarian Law. The passage of said legislation is a clear manifestation of the Philippines' support for the fundamental principles of International Humanitarian Law and is in support of the humanitarian thrust of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines also has a standing directive to all its units that cluster munitions cannot be included as operational requirements. The Philippine Government is currently working on securing the ratification of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

In closing, the Philippines wishes success to this meeting and looks forward to participating in the discussions on the draft Outcome Document for the Second Meeting of States Parties. The Philippines hopes that more States would support the universalization of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Thank you.