

**Second Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions
Beirut, 12-16 September 2011**

Universalisation

Statement by Ireland, 16 September 2011

Madam President,

My delegation would like to thank Japan as Friend of the President for its work on this important issue. We are aware that a number of other States parties have also undertaken significant efforts in this area and we commend this work.

Madam President

As a large number of other delegations have pointed out in the course of our discussions this week, universalisation is probably the greatest challenge ahead and the most essential task in terms of establishing the international norm which is vital to the life and success of the Convention. In Vientiane we agreed 6 very specific actions to strengthen universalisation and we are pleased to note the movement recorded in the Beirut Progress Report.

We welcome the large increase in the number of accessions to CCM since the first meeting of States Parties in Vientiane and the indications by a number of other States this week that they are well on the road to doing so.

Ireland has taken every opportunity to encourage States not party to the convention to accede to it and even where the signals have been disappointing, has worked to explain the obligations entailed and the benefits which accession to the Convention and its universalisation would bring for international peace and security.

Over the past year, we have again used our network of Embassies and close relations with a number of states, including in Africa, Europe, and Southeast Asia, as well as multilateral opportunities, to open and maintain dialogue on universalisation and we will continue to do so. We see military to military contacts as an important element in this dialogue.

I thank you Madam President