

CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS

THIRD MEETING OF STATES PARTIES, 11-14 SEPTEMBER 2012

UNIVERSALISATION

STATEMENT BY NEW ZEALAND

Thank you Mr President and at the outset I would like to convey our appreciation to Japan and Portugal for their efforts as Co-ordinators to promote universalisation of the Convention. We also recognise the excellent universalization work undertaken by other States and partners such as the CMC and the ICRC.

New Zealand is very pleased at the progress made to bolster the ranks of States parties to the Convention. We welcome wholeheartedly the 12 new States parties since our meeting last year in Beirut namely: Trinidad and Tobago, Italy, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Mauritania, Cote d'Ivoire, Honduras, Sweden, Togo, Hungary, Cameroon and Switzerland.

We are also encouraged by statements made this week that a number of other States are close to ratification and we look forward to welcoming them to the CCM family in the not too distant future.

New Zealand's universalisation efforts have traditionally focussed on our own region, the Pacific, and we have, this year, written to Pacific States urging them become a State party to the CCM. In doing so, and in recognition of the close linkages between universalization and national implementation measures, we have made offers of assistance to Pacific States regarding the establishment of appropriate national legislation to aid their ratification.

New Zealand is also pleased to join with Australia to support Palau host a workshop for Pacific nations on unexploded ordinance next month. The workshop will provide a further opportunity to promote the Convention in the region.

More broadly, New Zealand's newly appointed Ambassador to the African Union has also raised the Convention in numerous introductory calls on African States this year. New Zealand will continue to use these and other bilateral, regional and multilateral opportunities to promote greater universalization of our Convention.