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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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**AT THE**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster  
Munitions**  
**11 – 14 September 2012, Oslo, Norway**

Mr President your Excellency Mr. Kongstadt, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the ITF Enhancing Human Security, I'm glad to be present at the Third meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, the convention, which entered into force as binding international law on 1 August 2010, clearly demonstrating that the signatories are resolute in their determination to ban the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of cluster munitions the destruction of stockpiles, the clearance of affected land and the provision of assistance to victims and affected communities.

ITF also welcomes the decision of government of Norway to host such an important meeting, Norway being recognized as one of initiators of CCM process and on the other hand one of the biggest donors for Cluster Munitions Clearance and all other activities related with CCM implementation.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

ITF would like to emphasize that from the perspective of an organization dealing with the implementation on the ground; clearance of cluster munitions was and will continue to be an integral part of project implementation activities.

I would like to use this opportunity to briefly inform the chairmanship of the Convention, the States Parties to the Convention and all participants on the already implemented activities supported through the ITF related to cluster munitions clearance.

ITF has been active in the field of cluster munition clearance since 2003 and is primarily engaged in clearance operations of areas and territories contaminated with cluster munition and in the field of providing assistance and rehabilitation to cluster munition victims.

The majority of cluster munition clearance by ITF has been implemented in Southern Serbia (Niš, Kraljevo, Kopaonik) where ITF completed 23 cluster munitions clearance projects since 2003, clearing almost 4.41 square kilometers. In 2011 alone, ITF managed to clear over 530.000 sq.meters of cluster munitions contaminated land in Serbia.

In 2007, ITF supported general (re) survey in Serbia, implemented together with Norwegian People's Aid and Mine Action Centre of Serbia. The results of



survey, which was finished at the end of 2008, has taken in consideration around 30 square kilometers of suspected land. Survey gave very precise data about contamination. ITF believes that, with sufficient donor support, Serbia could be cluster munitions-free by 2016.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, ITF implemented 18 cluster munitions clearance projects since 2000, clearing almost 430.000 square meters country-wide. It has to be mentioned that those sites were cleared within mine action programme. In order to assist in meeting the obligations and deadlines from the Convention of Cluster Munitions, NPA Bosnia and Herzegovina conducted a general survey of contamination and impact of cluster munitions remnants. The survey project was financially supported by the United States Department of State through the ITF. Cluster munitions were found on 12,17 square kilometers what is less than 1 % of total mine suspected areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina. According to NPA plans the cluster munitions problem in BiH could be solved in next 3 years.

Here I would like to point out that ITF recognized a need for initial survey of the cluster munitions problem in both countries in very early stage and now national structures can prepare Cluster Munition Clearance plans according to survey findings.

Since 2003, ITF has also been active in other cluster munitions contaminated countries like Albania, Croatia, Montenegro and Kosovo. In mentioned countries cluster munitions clearance was performed during execution of mine clearance activities.

Since 2010, ITF also continuously supported battle area clearance activities of NGO DanChurchAid (DCA) in South Lebanon, clearing a total of over 425.000 square meters, recovering over 600 cluster sub-munitions. Funding for Lebanon programme was generously provided by Germany, Spain, Cyprus and United States of America in a co-financing manner, which is in this difficult times one of the proved models to continue on-going efforts of international community to support activities under the Convention. ITF has already secured additional funding donated by UNMAS and the United States of America to continue support of cluster clearance activities in Lebanon also in 2013 and beyond.

On behalf of the ITF I would like to use this opportunity to thank all donors, for their undivided support in eradicating cluster munitions problem worldwide.

All ITF activities, including those related to cluster munitions problem, would not be possible without the generous support of the donor community.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me conclude my statement by expressing ITF's preparedness to continue support cluster munitions clearance activities globally as well as actively contributing to implementation of Convention on Cluster Munitions to reach the end goal – World free of Cluster Munitions.

Thank you for your attention.