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STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

3 MSP CCM, Oslo, 8th September 2012

Mr President,

A little less than 4 years ago, many of us who are here today were excited to be coming to Oslo, for we were coming to sign the Convention to Ban Cluster Munitions. After years of perseverance and hard work, as a result of joint efforts of States Parties and International organizations and pushed and pulled by civil society, international NGOs, once again Humanitarian Convention was to be signed. The AP land mine treaty of 1997 was no longer to be an exception among the Security Treaties; it now had a healthy sibling, the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

With the 3MSP, the fledgling is coming of age and it is most appropriate that it is coming of age here, in Oslo.

Mr. President, dear Stefan, we congratulate you and your team for the work you have done in this regard, for assuming the presidency and for the work that you will be doing in the coming year and beyond. We also take this opportunity to thank Lebanon for their contribution in helping to push us forward in the past year.

Lastly, we encourage states not yet parties to the Convention to reconsider their position very seriously. We are particularly baffled that a number of countries who were in the forefront of the activity to ban cluster munitions in the early days seem to have become a bit lost, and have fallen behind, and we urge them to make that extra effort to get on board and sign and ratify the CCM... so that we can get on with the work before us.

Thank you.

