



Convention of Cluster Munitions
Third Meeting of States Parties
Oslo, 11 – 14 September 2012

General Remarks by DENMARK

H.E. Uffe Balslev, Ambassador for Disarmament

Mr President, distinguished colleagues,

On behalf of the Danish government let me begin by thanking the Norwegian government for organising this meeting and for the warm welcome here in Oslo. There are very close ties between our two countries and we are extremely pleased to see the third Meeting of States Parties taking place here in our neighbouring capital and the leading role Norway in general plays in this process. Let me also express my government's strong appreciation for the work carried out by the outgoing Presidency - our friends from Lebanon – and for the work done in the intersessional period including by the working group coordinators. Finally, let me congratulate you Mr President with your election and ensure you and your team of my delegations full support.

Mr President,

Denmark aligns itself with the statement that will be made by the European Union but allow me to make a few additional general remarks.

Mr President,

Denmark was one of the 30 first states to ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions and my country remains fully committed to the elimination of cluster munitions on the basis that such weapons cause unacceptable harm to civilians. We carry this commitment forward in various ways. Let me touch upon four aspects of this commitment:

Firstly, with regards to **national stockpiles**. At the Second meeting of States Parties last year in Beirut, Denmark announced that the destruction of our national stockpile would at the latest begin in 2016. Today, I am pleased to inform this Meeting of States Parties that Denmark has already initiated the destruction this year with expected completion in 2013. Four years earlier than expected and five years ahead of our deadline. My delegation will present the details of the Danish destruction plan later this week.

Secondly, Denmark contributes significantly to overall **mine action activities** – more than 300 million USD during the last ten years - and my government will continue to provide funding for overall mine action. Clearance as well as Mine Risk Education, Victim Assistance and Advocacy are integrated in the overall Danish Mine Action Strategy and Work Plan as well as in the Development Policy. Denmark currently funds mine action activities bilaterally in Libya, Somalia, Afghanistan, South Sudan and Burma as well as through the United Nations Mine Action Service.

Thirdly, my government believes a strong, independent, sustainable **Implementation Support Unit** able to do long-term planning is key to

ensuring full implementation of CCM as well as universalization of the Convention. We believe this objective is best reached through a financing model based on assessed contributions. In other words, an assessed model constitutes Denmark's preferred financing model for the ISU and my government stands ready to commit itself to such.

Fourthly, concerning Denmark's **overall position on cluster munitions**: Denmark considers the Convention on Cluster Munitions to be the standard and the appropriate framework for addressing the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions, and Denmark continues to urge all states not parties to the CCM to abolish this type of ammunition and join the Convention.

Mr President,

Let me conclude by reiterating Denmark's commitment to all obligations under the CCM. We look forward to fruitful discussions over the next four days. You and your team have my delegation's full support.

Thank you.