



European Union

**Third meeting of States Parties  
to the Convention on Cluster Munitions**

**(11-14 September 2012, Oslo, Norway)**

**Statement by**

**H.E. Mr János Herman,  
Ambassador, Head of the European Union Delegation to Norway**

**Oslo, 11 September 2012**

**Check against delivery**

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### **EU Statement**

Mr. President,

I am speaking on behalf of the European Union.

The Acceding Country Croatia\*, the Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Montenegro\*, Iceland<sup>†</sup> and Serbia\*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Albania, as well as the Republic of Moldova and Armenia align themselves with this declaration.

Mr. President,

Let me first congratulate you on your appointment as President of the Third Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. I take also the opportunity to thank the Government of Norway for hosting this meeting, four years after the signing Conference of the Convention here in Oslo in December 2008. We would also like to express our appreciation for the leading role played by Norway, throughout the Oslo process and since.

Equally we would like to thank the Government of Lebanon, a country severely affected by cluster munitions, for having hosted a very successful Second Meeting of States Parties last September in Beirut and for successfully leading the work of the Convention since then. In Beirut last year, delegations had the opportunity to hear about progress being made and challenges faced in implementing the commitments undertaken in the 2010 Vientiane Action Plan.

Mr. President,

The European Union has always supported international efforts addressing the considerable security, humanitarian and socio-economic impact of conventional weapons and their indiscriminate use on civilian populations.

EU Mine Action initially focused on the implementation of the Anti Personnel Landmine Convention commitments but has since extended its scope to all explosive remnants of war, including cluster munitions remnants. In providing assistance for clearance operations and victims assistance, like many donors, we do not differentiate between the types of explosive remnants. While recognizing the sovereign right of Member States to be bound only by the treaties to which they have acceded to, we support the development of synergies in the

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\* Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

<sup>†</sup> Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and other humanitarian disarmament treaties as applicable.

In supporting the overall goal of the Convention, the EU puts specific emphasis on the objectives of reducing the cluster munitions threat, alleviating victim suffering, providing socio-economic reintegration and enhancing local and regional capacities. In this regard, we are concerned at recent reports of the use of cluster munitions.

The Convention on Cluster Munitions emphasizes victim assistance measures and the EU reaffirms its commitment to strengthening care, rehabilitation and social and economic reintegration of victims. The EU also supports the view that assistance should be integrated in broader public health and socio-economic strategies.

In addition to the financial support provided by EU Member States individually to mine action, in 2011 the European Union contributed approximately 28 million Euros demonstrating our continuing commitment to a safer world. EU Mine Action projects include support in heavily affected countries (and areas) such as Libya, Lebanon, Laos, Afghanistan, Angola, Pakistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Palestinian Territories/Gaza and others.

Mr. President,

In a short period of time since the Convention was signed here in Oslo, 111 States have signed the Convention and 75 States have already ratified it. We are also pleased to recall that since the last Meeting of States Parties, Italy, the Czech Republic, Sweden and Hungary have ratified the Convention. Nonetheless, much remains to be done to include the world's largest possessors and manufacturers of cluster munitions in the overall divestment effort, which is one major purpose of the CCM and to improve the situation on the ground.

The EU is conscious of the need to ensure efficient and effective delivery of aid. We must be aware that full compliance with the obligations of the Convention on Cluster Munitions can be a significant challenge for affected States Parties. The EU is aware of the complexity of the tasks involved and we stand ready where possible to provide assistance to these States in their efforts to implement their national plans effectively, to comply with the Convention and to develop and utilise synergies with other international instruments. In the provision and allocation of financial assistance, the EU will continue to work in cooperation with the countries concerned.

Mr. President,

The adoption of the Vientiane Action Plan in 2010, setting out concrete steps and targets for the implementation of the Convention was a significant step. The Action Plan must now be implemented by States Parties.

Implementation of the CCM and delivering on the Vientiane Action Plan require financial resources and political commitment on the part of States Parties. The EU stands ready where possible to provide assistance in the application of the Vientiane Action Plan. We are convinced that through regular dialogue and synergies between donors, affected countries, victims and mine action organisations a lot of progress can be made and effective action can be carried out.

Thank you Mr. President.