

**THIRD MEETING OF STATES PARTIES
TO THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS**

Oslo, 11 September 2012

General Statement by Germany

Mr. President,

Excellencies, Distinguished Representatives and Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I take the floor for the first time, let me welcome you to the chair and let me also say that Germany is grateful to the Norwegian government for organizing and hosting the 3rd Meeting of State Parties of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. More than that - we all know that from the beginning Norway has played an essential role in bringing this important international instrument to life. For good reason, the Convention on Cluster Munitions is commonly named after the capital of your country.

This Convention is a historically important achievement as it promotes international disarmament and international humanitarian law in a very visible manner. At the same time, it gives its partners the opportunity for even closer cooperation in humanitarian and development fields. It is no exaggeration to describe the CCM as a milestone on the way to a more secure and peaceful world.

However, it must be emphasized all the more that incidents in the recent past - when these hazardous weapons have also been used against civilians – make it clear that we

still have a long way to go. For this reason, universalization must remain a constant goal of our common activities. Therefore, Germany continues to avail itself of every opportunity to call upon partners who are not yet members to join the Convention as soon as possible.

My country has for years been a strong supporter of a comprehensive ban on Cluster Munitions. Germany supported the negotiating process from the start, and it became the eleventh country to complete the ratification process by depositing its instrument of ratification in 2009. Our continuing efforts concerning stockpile destruction are well on track for completion by 2015.

Also in the last year, Germany has continued to assist affected states in fulfilling their obligations and in tackling the problems that cluster munitions cause even when the conflicts are over. Meanwhile, in many countries UXO and Cluster Munitions cause more casualties than landmines do. The clearance programmes funded by Germany take this into account; at the same time our measures provide funding for victim assistance and mine risk education.

Mr. President,

A number of problems and questions have to be dealt with in order to make the work of the CCM even more effective. Let me assure you that the German delegation will do everything possible to support you during this meeting, with the aim of making the 3MSP a success.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.