

CCM 3MSP, Oslo, 11 September 2012.

Mr President,

allow me to express my thanks for the hospitality of the Norwegian government for hosting this meeting. May I also take this opportunity and commend the former Presidency, Lebanon for its outstanding work.

Hungary fully associates itself with the statement delivered by the EU yesterday, however, let me emphasise a few points.

The Convention on Cluster Munitions represents a unique achievement of multilateral diplomacy. Since 1997, when the Mine Ban Convention was signed, this Convention is the first new agreement on disarmament.

The success of the Oslo Process is in large part due to the intense level of cooperation between governments and civil society, whose expertise and persistence played a vital role in getting to where we are today. Let me refer to the introductory words of Mr. Jonas Gahr Store yesterday, introducing Mr Branislav Kapetanovic: it takes enthusiastic and committed individuals like him to make a change. We believe the Oslo Process stands as a shining example of what can be achieved when we harness political will to tackle issues of mutual concern.

In the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, Hungary has never been among the laggards. We were among the first to destroy our stockpile of anti-personal landmines in line with the provisions of the Mine Ban Treaty. In fact, we were done with the destruction of our cluster munitions stockpiles even before we have completed the domestic ratification of the Convention. We began the destruction in March 2011 and finished a few months later in June. The instrument of ratification was deposited in New York a year later on 3 July 2012.

We take our disarmament obligations seriously and make sure that they are translated into concrete action. It is with great pride for me to recall that the Hungarian National Assembly ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions by voting unanimously in favour of the adoption of the relevant Act.

I wish to reiterate Hungary's conviction that the Convention on Cluster Munitions is an important milestone regarding the protection of civilians in conflict and post-conflict environments. Therefore we have been and continue to remain an active supporter of the implementation of the principles and goals of the Convention. In order to achieve this goal, we hope that this meeting of states parties will adopt a financial model for the International Support Unit that provides the necessary means for the ISU to carry out its tasks and allows for long term planning.

Mr. President, I was in the conference hall up on Holmenkollen in the Soria Moria conference centre when a possible ban on cluster munitions was first discussed in February 2007 and also at the signing ceremony in 2008 as a diplomat serving in Norway. I admit the prospects for the convention looked anything but promising then. I am, therefore, particularly happy to be able to follow closely the rapid progress it has made.

On this personal note, may I extend my congratulations again to all who have made this happen.

Thank you.