



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND EUROPEAN INTEGRATION  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

*Check against delivery*

**STATEMENT**  
**by Mr. Gheorghe LEUCĂ**  
**Head of the delegation of the Republic of Moldova**  
**at the Third Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions**  
*Oslo, 11 – 14 September 2012*

Mr. President,

On behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Moldova I would like to congratulate you upon the election as a chair of this important meeting. We are convinced that under your able leadership the participant delegations will achieve estimated results and I would like to ensure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

Let me also convey our most sincere appreciation and thanks to the Norwegian Government for hosting the Third Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). It is very symbolic that we meet today in Oslo, the city where the Convention was opened for signature in December 2008 and the city that gave the informal name for CCM – the Oslo Convention. The engagement of Norway in promoting a large-scale banning of cluster munitions is invaluable and served essentially for the conclusion of CCM.

Mr. President,

This is for the third time that this august fora gathers us together, offering the possibility to consider the developments occurred since the last annual meeting of the States Parties on the status and operation of CCM, its universalization, international cooperation and assistance in the framework of CCM provisions, as well as the status of reporting and victim assistance activities. These broad discussions are of outmost importance for ensuring the viability and effectiveness of our Convention, proving its growing actuality in addressing the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions.

It is very encouraging that among more than one hundred signatories, 75 states parties have already ratified the Convention. This serves as notorious proof of the full engagement to completely ban this indiscriminate and outmost dangerous weapon, especially for its impact on innocent and unprotected civilians. We welcome this progress and believe that it represents another important step forward in strengthening the operational status of the Convention

It is our belief that over past years the CCM has already proved its viability and the results achieved should find their reflection in the Oslo Progress Report. We also look forward to hear from distinguished Coordinators their reports on the progresses reached

so far on stockpile destruction, clearance and risk reduction, national implementation and transparency measures. While endorsing the important role of our coordinators in conducting respective analysis, it is our belief that we should also consider possibilities to strengthen and consolidate all necessary institutional mechanisms that will further facilitate the effective CCM implementation.

Mr. President,  
Distinguished delegates,

It is our strong belief that only by enhancing the international cooperation and assistance among all interested stakeholders the global community will succeed in addressing the humanitarian impact caused by cluster munitions, will contribute in practical terms to the post-conflict clearance of the affected areas and will improve the quality and effectiveness of the assistance provided to the victims injured by these harmful weapons.

We have all necessary premises and legal background to achieve these goals. The Vientiane five-year Action Plan, the Beirut Declaration, the decisions taken during the intersessional meetings constitute the necessary driving force to accomplish the tasks that we have set by concluding the CCM. Our main obligation is to ensure their effective implementation that will provide tangible results on the ground. We remain confident that by joint efforts, clear focus and perspectives, right recourses and sustained cooperation between governments, international organizations and civil society we can afford the entire spectrum of challenges.

As a state party, the Republic of Moldova attaches great importance to the adequate and full implementation of the CCM and continuously supports the efforts of the international community for a large-scale and imminent prohibition of use, production, transfer and stockpiling of cluster munitions. My country participated in the Oslo Process and in the codification of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Moreover, the Republic of Moldova was among the first 30 countries to ratify the Convention and succeeded to destroy all its stockpiles of cluster munitions in advance of the CCM's entry into force. As we are today in Oslo, I would like to take this opportunity to extend our particular gratitude to the Government of Norway and the Norwegian People's Aid for the invaluable assistance provided to Moldova in order to achieve this goal. Now, having our national knowledge and first-hand experience, we continuously stand ready to share them with all interested parties.

My delegation believes that the final document that will be adopted on the results of this meeting will provide new inputs and important add-value to all the efforts that we made so far and will guide us further in promoting the main goals of CCM.

In conclusion, I wish to stress that the Republic of Moldova fully aligns itself to the statement made by the distinguished representative of the European Union.

Thank you, Mr. President.