

**STATEMENT OF HIS EXCELLENCY BAYANI S. MERCADO,
PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR TO NORWAY AND HEAD OF THE
PHILIPPINE DELEGATION TO THE THIRD MEETING OF STATES
PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS**

**11 TO 14 SEPTEMBER 2012
OSLO, NORWAY**

Mr. President.

My delegation congratulate you on your election as President and thank the Government of Norway for hosting this important conference. We also pay tribute to Lebanon for its effective leadership during the past year. Many thanks also to UNDP for the assistance extended to my delegation.

Mr. President.

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines takes pride in joining fellow member States in expressing full support for the Convention on Cluster Munitions. It is indeed symbolic that this Meeting of States Parties is being convened anew in Norway, the country that provided impetus for the multilateral negotiations, now known as the Oslo Process, which culminated in the successful conclusion of the Convention of Cluster Munitions in 2008.

After entry into force only two years ago, this Convention is hailed as an unprecedented achievement in international humanitarian law and the field of disarmament as it laid the groundwork for concerted action on the part of the international community to address the unacceptable suffering wrought by the inhumane and indiscriminate use of cluster munitions on non-combatants. The conclusion of a legally binding international instrument prohibiting the production, stockpiling, use and transfer of cluster munitions and providing assistance for victims, mine clearance and

stockpile destruction, is a clear testament to the successful and enduring partnership forged between the United Nations and a broad based coalition of States, relevant international organizations and civil society in addressing the scourge of cluster munitions.

Mr. President.

The Philippines is proud to have played a pivotal role in the drafting and eventual signing of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. In signing the Convention, the Philippines pledged not to procure, stockpile or use cluster munitions.

In succeeding Preparatory Conferences and Meetings of States Parties, the Philippines affirmed its commitment to the Convention by steadfastly supporting efforts to enhance its implementation through close collaboration with States, the United Nations Development Programme, International Committee of the Red Cross and our partners from civil society such as the Cluster Munitions Coalition and the Philippine Campaign to Ban Cluster Munitions.

In conjunction with these efforts, the Philippines has sought to actively promote wider adherence to the Convention on Cluster Munitions in relevant international disarmament fora.

Mr. President.

The Philippines welcomes the report on the progress that has been attained since the Vientiane Declaration and Vientiane Action Plan were adopted by States Parties in 2010. It is significant that the Final Declaration issued during the Second Meeting of States Parties in Beirut in 2011 reported tangible progress in the critical areas of cluster munitions clearance, stockpile destruction and provision of assistance to victims of cluster munitions.

The Philippines welcomes the introduction of the proposed Outcome Document for the 3rd Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions as a positive measure in strengthening the implementation of the Cluster Munitions Convention and in promoting greater support and universalization of the Convention.

The Philippines believes that active collaboration between concerned government and our partners in civil society is crucial in enhancing implementation of the goals enunciated under the Vientiane Declaration, Vientiane Action Plan and Work Programme.

On the proposal for the establishment of an Implementation Support Unit as enunciated under Article IV (Decisions and Recommendations) of the Final Document of the Second Meeting of States Parties in Beirut held from 12 to 16 September 2012, the Philippines is of the view that contributions for the operation of the Implementation Support Unit should be on a voluntary basis.

Mr. President.

The challenge that confronts all States at this Meeting is to ensure that the targets enunciated in the Vientiane Action Plan are fully implemented.

The Philippines wishes to assure you, Mr. President, of its cooperation and support in the deliberations on the draft Outcome Document. We are confident that the Meeting will chart a course of action that will build on the gains that have been achieved.

Thank you.