

Statement by Portugal

Delivered by Ambassador João Lima Pimentel,
Ambassador of Portugal to Norway,
Head of Delegation of Portugal to the Third Meeting of States Parties
to the Convention on Cluster Munitions
Oslo, 11 September 2012

Mr President,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on your appointment as President of the Third Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. I am sure that under your able leadership, we will be furthering the goals of the Convention through decisions that can garner an enduring consensus.

I avail myself of this opportunity to thank the excellent work done by the outgoing Lebanese Presidency.

I would also like to address a word of gratitude to the Government of Norway for hosting this meeting, which reminds us of the prescient role that Norway and its People have played in the strive for the eradication of cluster munitions. Oslo has an indelible connection to this landmark Convention: it was here, almost four years ago, that like minded countries pledged to ban the use, the production, the transfer and the stockpiling of these weapons, as well as the assistance or support to these activities.

Mr President,

The CCM is remarkable in many aspects. Not only the strength of its provisions is a particularly commendable feature, but also its very existence and early entry into force are remarkable humanitarian achievements in their own right.

Indeed, in the field of Disarmament, more important than the pace, is perhaps the steadiness of the path towards a safer world. In this light, the CCM has played a key role: it has contributed to the advancement of Disarmament, by charting new territory around which consensus is increasingly being built.

Mr President,

Already seventy-five countries have declared their willingness to be bound by this Convention, up from the forty-six that met two years ago in Vientiane. This