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STATEMENT BY THE SWEDISH DELEGATION

Mr. President,

Allow me to congratulate you on your appointment and thank you for your excellent work preparing for this meeting. Also, please note that Sweden fully subscribes to the statement by the European Union.

Mr. President,

I have the honour to report to the Meeting of State Parties that Sweden has ratified the Convention on cluster munitions. The instrument of ratification was deposited with the UN Secretary General on 23 April this year, and the Convention will enter into force in Sweden on 1 October, that is within a few weeks. On the same day, a new law on punishment of unlawful dealings with cluster munitions will enter into force.

We believe that the Convention is an important element in efforts to bring about a broad-based ban on cluster munitions and reduce the unacceptable human suffering they cause.

Mr. President,

Sweden is a longstanding donor to mine action, including projects related to cluster munitions. As many other donors, we make no distinction between the different types of explosive remnants of war. In 2011, the Swedish support to mine action amounted to 79 million Swedish crowns, or approximately 12 million US-dollars.

As Sweden has reported on earlier occasions, we are in the process of dismantling the Swedish cluster munitions weapons system "BK 90". This process is expected to be finalized well within the time frame established in the Convention. I will return to this issue in more detail under the agenda item on destruction.

Thank you, Mr. President