

Statement by
Dr Norgen Wilson

Mr President

Ladies and gentlemen,

Please allow me on behalf of the delegation of St Kitts and Nevis to extend congratulations to you personally on assuming the Presidency of the Third Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Norway's contribution toward the implementation of the Cluster Munitions Convention has been tireless and its leadership is well documented.

I wish to thank the Government and people of the Kingdom of Norway for being such gracious host and for the wonderful arrangements in place in an effort to make this meeting a successful and memorable.

The immediate past President must also be applauded for his sterling contribution and the strides the Convention made during his tenure.

While I am in a spirit of giving thanks allow me to extend my appreciation to the sponsors who made it possible for the delegation of St Kitts and Nevis to attend this Conference. Specific mention must be made of the UNDP.

St Kitts and Nevis was represented at the Oslo Process in December 2007 and was also present at a regional meeting in Mexico in April 2008. Since then the Federation has been absent from other meetings or conferences pertaining to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. However the absence of representatives from St Kitts and Nevis over the past few years is not a negative signal to the Convention. In fact the contrary is true. The

Government of St Kitts and Nevis supports the Convention and views acceding to the Convention as a positive step and action will be taken in the not too distant future.

The Federation of St Kitts and Nevis has adopted the Convention in theory but efforts are on the way to formally sign and ratify the Convention. However before action can be taken on future agreements there is currently a review of existing agreements to ensure that the necessary legislation has been adopted to give legitimacy to such agreements. In this regard the legal affairs department, though small, has been working tirelessly to update our laws to meet the demands of the day. The goal is to avoid acceding to additional treaties/conventions/protocols/agreements prior to ensuring that existing agreements have the necessary legislation to give effect to them in St Kitts and Nevis.

Once again I reiterate that St Kitts and Nevis is in support of the Cluster Munitions Convention and will sign and ratify it as soon as the review of legislation giving effect to existing agreements is complete.

I am confident that this Meeting will be productive and that after Oslo we will look back and say that the time spent has been meaningful.

Thank you Mr President.