

Intervention of the Delegation of Lebanon on Universalization
3rd Meeting of State Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions,
Oslo, September 11-14 2012

Thank you Mr./Madame President,

On behalf of the Lebanese delegation, allow me to extend our continued appreciation to Japan and Portugal in their capacities as Coordinators on Universalization, for their efforts to promote the universal adherence to the CCM, as well as other States who have shown real commitment to this end; in this regard I want to highlight the importance of Croatia and Accra regional conferences on the CCM held earlier last May, especially in terms of the regional context that strengthens the international efforts.

Lebanon, (Like others), would like to welcome the States that have joined the Convention since the 2MSP in Beirut last September. Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Hungary, Italy, Mauritania, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Lebanon, as an affected State and as president of the 2MSP, takes its obligation to promote Universalization of the Convention very seriously and gives it particular attention and priority.

During the Geneva Intersessional Meeting in April, we expressed our intention to organize a regional technical workshop on Universalization in June 2012 in Beirut. All preparations were done in cooperation with UNDP country Office in Beirut, Lebanon Mine Action Center and the Civil Society organizations. However, at the last minute, it was decided to postpone the meeting due to regional developments.

Currently, we are discussing with our partners, the possibility of holding this very workshop in Spring 2013, and we will inform you duly about that.

Mr. /Madame President,

To compensate our inability to hold the aforesaid workshop in 2012, the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants organized in June 2012 a briefing lunch on the CCM for the Arab Ambassadors and representatives

accredited in Beirut, the lunch was concluded by a debate on the challenges hindering adherence to the CCM in the region.

In addition, to celebrate the Second Anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention, an Iftar was held in August 2012, which was attended by Ambassadors and Representatives from Arab states, states members of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC), donor states and other active states on the Cluster Munitions Convention. More importantly, this occasion was honored by the presence of around 50 persons: victims of Cluster Munitions and members of civil society organizations active in the field of awareness and victims assistance.

This Iftar was a successful occasion to follow up on the initial lunch. A recall was made to regional states to attend the 3MSP and to join the convention.

In due context, I would like to highlight the cooperation and important contribution of the Civil Society Organizations in Lebanon in all our universalization efforts.

Furthermore and despite the political situation and regional problems, the Lebanese Minister of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants benefited from all available opportunities, to call on sister Arab states to join the convention.

In the same context, bilateral meetings and personal contacts were done with diplomats accredited in Beirut to exchange points of view and to encourage their respective states to join the convention.

Finally, Mr. /Madame President,

Lebanon will continue to stand ready to overcome any constraints hindering regional accession to the convention, yet, the non-adherence of major producing states, the possession, the threat and the actual use of Cluster Munitions by the state of Israel, is a major obstacle to our call for regional adherence to the Convention, while the threat of Cluster Munitions is still standing.

Finally, and despite all challenges in the Arab world, we were pleased by the massive attendance of 19 Arab states to the 2MSP, even though 12 states were present as observers, hoping that it will be a first step towards their adherence to the Convention.

Thank you, Mr./Madame President.