

Oslo, 12 September 2012

## **Statement by the Ambassador of the Netherlands at the General Debate of the 3rd MSP of the CCM**

Mr. Chairman,

Let me start by congratulating you on your Presidency. Like others before me, I would also like to thank the Norwegian Government for its hospitality and for its leadership on this issue as well as on other topics of IHL and Disarmament. We also extend our thanks to outgoing President Lebanon for all their efforts.

While aligning fully to the statement made yesterday on behalf of the EU, please allow me to make in addition the following remarks.

Mr. Chairman,

Yesterday you reminded us in your opening statement that 15 years ago in this same hall we successfully negotiated the Mine Ban Convention, or -as we called it at that time- the Ottawa Convention. I remember well, because I was so fortunate to participate in these negotiations here in Oslo. A lot has happened in these 15 years. The Ottawa convention and especially the norms it contains have become almost universal. Many of the States that resisted the negotiation process at the time are now among its most ardent supporters. I hope the same will happen to this convention. A growing number of States Parties as well as growing recognition of the norms also by States that are not yet in a position to join the Treaty. In that respect I am happy to learn that a considerable number of States non-parties are participating in this Conference. We hope they will participate as full parties the next time we meet. Like others before me, the honorable Minister of Zambia for example, we see the universality of this Convention as our common task, as our common duty. An active outreach to Non-Parties is necessary.

Mr. Chairman,

I am happy that I can inform the Conference that the Netherlands has recently completed the destruction of its once considerable stockpile of cluster munitions. Consistent with article 3 paragraph 6 of the Convention a small number of cluster munitions have been retained for training practice.

Mr. Chairman,

I would also like to inform the Conference that the Netherlands Government has decided to work towards a legal prohibition of investments in the production of Cluster munitions. It is the intention of the Government this prohibition will take effect as from January 1 2013.

Mr. Chairman,

The Netherlands has supported and will continue to do so clearance activities and victim assistance worldwide. For the years 2012 till 2016 the Netherlands has made available 45 million Euro's for these activities

Mr. Chairman to conclude,

The Netherlands is strongly in favor of the establishment of an effective ISU. We think in that regard we have to use and benefit from the experience of the ISU of the Ottawa convention. We hope we will be able to finalize our discussion on the ISU at this Conference and that the ISU will be operational shortly.

Thank you