

3rd Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, 11-14 September 2012

Item 10 – Universalization

Statement by Mauritius

Mr. President,

As a small but responsible member of the comity of states, Mauritius is a staunch supporter of complete disarmament. We are convinced that multilateralism and multilaterally agreed solutions are the only sustainable methods of addressing issues relating to disarmament in general. Mauritius is party to most disarmament conventions and we were, in fact, among the very first states to become party to the Ottawa Convention in December 1997.

Mr. President,

The Oslo process has demonstrated that when states and non-state actors join hands together for a noble cause, success is not very far away. Mauritius, therefore, believes that with such a symbiotic partnership the goal of universalization of the Convention on Cluster Munitions is not far. Results on the ground are most encouraging.

Even one new victim is a victim too much, as cluster munitions are not only about disarmament but also a humanitarian and development issue. At the time of use, they indiscriminately kill and maim civilians. Long after conflicts have ended, they threaten civilians; survivors suffer psychological trauma and many are unable to return to their jobs and remain unemployed. The threat of unexploded submunitions result in a persistent sense of insecurity and fear, hampering rehabilitation efforts and prevents or makes it extremely risky for people to access resources such as agricultural land and

water. Thus, the humanitarian dimension of the CCM and its contribution to international humanitarian law is crucial.

Mr. President,

My country has never produced, transferred, used or stockpiled cluster munitions and does not intend to ever do so. Despite not still being a signatory or party to the Convention we are strongly committed to its ideals and principles, and participate in meetings of the States Parties – we also attended the meeting held in Accra in May this year. Mauritius believes that, as important as universalization, is the complete eradication of cluster munitions and the possibility of acceding to the CCM is being considered by the relevant stakeholders. My delegation will also take back home the strong call for universalization of the convention.

Thank you.