

Afghanistan inputs for the 4th Meeting of States Parties to CCM – General Exchange Views:

Excellencies, Distinguished Heads of Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen!

I would like to congratulate the Republic of Zambia for being elected as the President of the 4th MSP to CCM.

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan signed the CCM on December 2008 and ratified it on 8 September 2011.

Cluster munitions beside landmines and ERW have seriously affected the people of Afghanistan. Since 1981, 222 Afghans either killed or injured as a result of accidents related to cluster munitions however since 2011 no casualties have been reported because of cluster munitions.

With regard to the Article three of the CCM, I should mention that Afghanistan has destroyed all its Cluster Munitions stocks before the CCM entered into force.

Regarding the Article four of the CCM, I would like to mention that Afghanistan has a comprehensive survey information on the extent and impact of explosives hazards including cluster munitions. Currently, 20 cluster munitions contaminated sites with an area of over 7 sq km remained un-cleared in Afghanistan however two thirds of cluster munitions problem has already been addressed. These cluster munitions sites are located in 5 Provinces out of 34. Clearance of areas contaminated by cluster munitions is included in the national mine action implementation plan. It is worth mentioning that 60% of these cluster munitions contaminated areas are planned for clearance in the period 2013 – 2015 while the remaining parts are planned for later years because of their location in insecure areas.

In relation to the Article Five of the convention, Afghanistan has made significant progress, such as ratification of the CRPD, amendment of the National Law on the Rights and Benefits of Disabled Persons in the light of CRPD, Expansion of Inclusive Education by Ministry of Education, Establishment of the National Disability Institute in Kabul to train professionals on disability related subjects by MoLSAMD, Launching a four year disability and physical rehabilitation strategy by MoPH and so on.

With regard to the Article Nine of the convention, Afghanistan has drafted a law which forbids production, use, transportation and stockpiling of explosive items including cluster munitions and it is being reviewed by the Ministry of Justice now.

At the end I would like to reiterate that the GIROA commit itself to fulfilling its obligations in relation to the Convention on Cluster Mentions.

Thank you