

**Fourth Meeting of States Parties
To the
Convention on Cluster Munitions
9 to 13 September, Lusaka, Zambia**

General Statement by Canada

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Canadian delegation, I would like to express our appreciation to the Government of Zambia for the organization and hosting of this Fourth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Additionally, Canada would like to thank Norway, as President of the Third Meeting of States Parties, for all of its hard work over the past year and for its commitment and leadership on this Convention.

Canada views the Convention on Cluster Munitions as one of the instruments of international humanitarian law that addresses the humanitarian impact of weapons that may have indiscriminate effects.

Canada is a signatory to the Convention. The Canadian Parliament is now considering implementing legislation which will enable us to ratify the Convention.

Canada has, however, already begun implementing the Convention's provisions. The Canadian Armed Forces have removed their remaining stockpiles of cluster munitions from active service and have begun the process of destroying them. Canada has advocated that States not party to the CCM join the Convention, and will continue to do so.

Since 2006, Canada has contributed more than \$207 M to mine action. Canadian funding is used to support activities related to the humanitarian impact of all explosive munitions – be they mines, cluster munitions or other explosive remnants of war. With respect to cluster munitions specifically, Canada has provided funding to the Lao PDR and Lebanon for risk education and cluster

munitions clearance activities, as well as to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Palau and South Sudan for clearance activities. In addition, since 2006, Canada has provided funding for other unexploded ordnance clearance activities in Mozambique, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Chad.

Mr. President,

We have seen successes over the last three years since entry into force of the CCM. Considerable progress has been made in destroying stockpiled cluster munitions and in clearing contaminated land, thus helping to prevent further tragedies. Unfortunately, however, there has been continued use of cluster munitions. Like others, Canada is concerned about the reported use of cluster munitions by the Syrian armed forces and their devastating impact on the civilian population in Syria. We urge all parties to the conflict in Syria to refrain from using cluster munitions.

The Convention on Cluster Munitions is an important step forward in our common efforts to protect civilians from the ravages of conflict. Canada is firmly committed to the goals of this Convention.

Thank you.