

**Fourth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions  
Lusaka, Zambia, September 2014**

**Intervention by the Czech Republic**

Madam Chairperson,

I would like to congratulate, through you Madam, the President of this noble gathering on his appointment. At the same time, I express my gratitude to the Government of Zambia for hosting the Fourth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). Let me assure you of the support of my delegation in your endeavour to reach a successful and consensual outcome of this meeting. I take this opportunity to congratulate and extend an appreciation and very warm welcome to the new – since our last meeting in Oslo – States Parties to CCM. The Czech Republic fully subscribes to the statement by the European Union delivered earlier, thus I may limit my intervention to bringing about only a few points from the national perspective.

The Czech Republic belongs to the initial signatories of CCM, its domestic ratification process was finalized in 2011 and the CCM entered into force for my country on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2012. The Czech Republic put forward in time its initial report as well as an annual report according to paragraph 1 of Article 7 of CCM.

The Czech Republic did never use cluster munitions in any military operation. Moreover, it removed all existing stockpiles of cluster munitions by the year 2006. During the period 2004 – 2010, all cluster munitions were destroyed in an environment friendly manner. Currently, the Czech Republic retains, in consistence with paragraph 6 of Article 3 of CCM, only 293 peaces of explosive submunitions with no air or surface-fired means of delivery. That represents a considerable decrease of 185 pieces in comparison with 478 pieces from the initial report presented last year and 796 pieces at the end of 2010. Those explosive submunitions have been used strictly for training of Explosive Ordnance Disposal specialists in detection, clearance and destruction techniques of cluster munitions.

In order to impose the obligations under CCM on natural and legal persons, our constitution system required the adoption of a special law. That Law, No. 213 of 2011, *On the Prohibition of the Use, Development, Production and Transfer of Cluster Munitions and their Destruction*, has been in effect from the date of the entry into force of the Convention for the Czech Republic, i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> March 2012. Since then, no case of breach has been registered.

Madam Chairperson,

The Czech Republic is a traditional advocate of CCM, supports its universalisation and subscribes to the Vientiane Action Plan adopted in December 2010. Despite current budgetary limitations, we stand ready to support effective implementation of the goals set forth by it. We also took due note of the Lusaka Progress Report prepared for the Fourth Meeting of the States Parties and we appreciate findings contained therein. Allow me to share with you a note on our efforts to promote the universalisation of CCM in 2012 - 2013: throughout bilateral consultations with neighbouring countries and countries of the Czech foreign policy high priority we systematically pointed out to the importance of becoming

a party to CCM. Finally, the Czech Republic cosponsored the UNGA resolution 67/262, approved by a vote on 15 May 2013, strongly condemning in its first operative paragraph *the use by the Syrian authorities of, i.a., indiscriminate weapons against population centres, as well as the use of cluster munitions.*

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.