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Convention of Cluster Munitions

Forth Meeting of States Parties

Lusaka, 9 – 13 September 2013

General Remarks by DENMARK

Mr President, distinguished colleagues,

On behalf of the Danish government let me begin by thanking the Zambian government for organising this meeting and for the generous hospitality extended to us here in Lusaka. Let me also express my government's strong appreciation for the work carried out by both the outgoing Presidency and the working group coordinators. Finally, let me congratulate you Mr President with your election.

Mr President,

Denmark aligns itself with the statement that will be made by the European Union but allow me to make a few additional remarks. I believe Denmark has made substantial progress with regards to the implementation of the CCM since we met in Oslo. This includes issues of stockpile destruction, investment and support to implementation and universalization of the convention.

Mr President,

Firstly, with regards to national stockpiles. You may recall that at the third meeting of States Parties last year in Oslo, Denmark announced that the destruction of our national stockpile had been initiated. Today, I am pleased to inform this Meeting of States Parties that Denmark's stockpile of cluster munitions is transferred to the company which takes care of the destruction. The vast majority of this is already destroyed and only a small amount – approximately 3.600 shells – remain, which will be destroyed before the end of this year. That is five years ahead of Denmark's deadline. Furthermore we have a message to countries hesitating to join the CCM due to financial concerns: In our case the destruction costs have turned out to be only 1 EUR per bomblet which is far less than anticipated. I encourage you to attend my delegation's detailed presentation on stockpile destruction later in the week.

Secondly, Mr President, the Danish Government is currently investigating the possibilities nationally for further engaging private investors in pursuing the objectives of the CCM and the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. The former Minister of Business and Growth has in May 2013 asked the Danish Council for Corporate Responsibility for its recommendations on requirements

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and possibilities to effectively strengthen efforts for responsible investment in relation to the CCM and the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

Thirdly, in order to ensure the implementation of the Vientiane and Cartagena Action Plans Denmark continues to contribute significantly to overall mine action activities. This year Denmark is providing support to mine clearance and victim assistance of approximately 6.5 million USD and we intend to provide approximately 5.5 million USD as a multiyear general support to the United Nations Mine Action Service Voluntary Trusty Fund for 2013 and 2014.

Implementation and universalization of the CCM and the Mine Ban Treaty is key to us and Denmark has recently committed approximately 2 million USD in three year multiyear support to such efforts. Most of our partners are in the room today. Amongst others I would like to thank the ICBL-CMC and not least its Danish members for their continued fruitful cooperation.

Finally, Mr. President, I would like to conclude my remarks by ensuring you and your team of my delegations full support and by quoting the Danish Foreign Minister Villy Søvndal when he condemned the use of cluster munitions in Syria: *“Denmark condemns all use of cluster munitions and calls*

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on all states not parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions to join the CCM without delay. There are no other solutions to the humanitarian consequences of cluster munitions than a total and universal ban”. End of quote.

Thank you Mr. President.