

Convention on Cluster Munitions: Fourth Meeting of States Parties

Statement by Norway on Universalization

Thank you, Madam President

Universalization is a crucial part of the work to ensure that we reach our common aim, to end the suffering caused by cluster munitions. More than half of UN member states have already joined the Convention on Cluster Munitions. The Convention's global status has been reached in less than five years since entry into force, an extraordinary achievement. Few other comparable international instruments have reached this level of influence in such a short time.

Parallel with this support in sheer numbers, an international norm against the use of cluster munitions has gained near universal support, including from states that so far have chosen to remain outside the Convention – with one notable exception, which has been widely condemned.

However, we must continue our efforts to solidify the norms of the Convention, and to ensure that more states choose to be bound by its obligations.

Norway believes that it is particularly important to encourage affected states to join the Convention as soon as possible. Two of the four most contaminated states are still outside the Convention, and we believe that both our community and these states would gain from their membership. As president of the 3MSP Norway started several dialogues with affected states, including Cambodia, Vietnam and Serbia, and will continue these in the time ahead.

In these efforts, our best argument is to demonstrate that the Convention works as an effective framework for action to address the full range of problems and harm caused by cluster munitions. And as we have heard at this and other meetings, implementation of the key provisions of the Convention is by and large successful. Contaminated areas are being surveyed and cleared in ever more effective ways, states with stockpiles have received technical and financial support for destruction, and the comprehensive set of measures to recognise and support victims contained in articles 2, 5 and 6 has resulted in more knowledge and awareness about victims needs and rights. In short, the Convention has enabled a community of practice and knowledge that drives the efforts to end the suffering and problems caused by cluster munitions. This is the most important message we must convey to potential new States Parties.

Norway is candidate to become coordinator for universalization for the coming two-year period. If elected, we look forward to learning from the experience of the current coordinators, Portugal and Ghana, and to continue a fruitful cooperation with Ghana.

Thank you, Madam President.