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**Fourth Meeting of States Parties  
to the Convention on Cluster Munitions**

**Statement by**

**Ambassador Urs Schmid  
Head of the Swiss Delegation**

**on the ISU during the General Exchange Debate  
(complement to the General Exchange Debate)**

***Lusaka, le 10 septembre 2013***

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Mme Chairperson,

Let me now turn to English as for the benefit of time management I will not read out in full my written statement, which is being distributed to all delegations in both Languages. I may just highlight one aspect that is dear to my delegation, namely the effective implementation of the Convention. We have without doubt made substantial progress since the entry into force of this Convention a little more than three years ago.

Nevertheless, we do also have to admit, that we are still facing considerable challenges. The Lusaka Progress Report, submitted to this Conference by the President of the Third Meeting of States Parties, is a call to all of us, to renew our commitment to this Convention. Let me give you some examples: The general trends regarding transparency are disturbing: 26 States Parties have not yet submitted their initial transparency reports, a number of States Parties have moreover been late in the submission of subsequent annual reports, 19 States Parties have not yet submitted their annual transparency report for 2013. Three years after entry into force, 29 signatories have yet to ratify the Convention. For many States Parties with Article 4 obligations it remains a challenge to develop and implement national strategic plans that apply context-relevant and up-to-date survey and land release methods. And a second challenge to many of them is to identify and mobilise resources for Article 4 implementation. Victim assistance remains another area of concern. And with regard to international cooperation and assistance the report reveals that 13 States Parties have explicitly reported that they are currently in need of international cooperation and assistance.

Mme Chairperson,

These are just a few examples to highlight the urgent need of a full-fledged implementation support unit whose urgent need was identified already by the 2nd MSP. Switzerland believes, that we simply cannot afford to delay any further the decision on the establishment of the ISU. My delegation certainly deplores, that no consensus could be achieved on the only outstanding issue in this regard, namely on the funding modalities. However, it has to be acknowledged that considerable progress has been achieved in the consultations since the last Meeting of States Parties and paragraph 71 of the Lusaka Progress Report refers to them. Like always, the Norwegian Chair has been very humble about the progress achieved in these consultations.

In fact the consultations have been extremely helpful in clarifying a number of important elements like for example the size and structure of the ISU, providing us thus with a clear picture of the costs involved, but also by further refining the draft hosting agreement with the GICHD. In addition to that, the Swiss offer to provide in kind contributions to cover the costs of the services provided by the Center to the ISU remains naturally fully valid.

Mme Chairperson,

It would indeed be a strong signal for the continuing commitment of the States Parties to the Convention if this Meeting here in Lusaka is to take the long overdue decision to establish the Implementation Support Unit. It would be beneficial for the Convention, it would be beneficial for all States Parties and it would be beneficial for the actual and future presidencies. We believe it is feasible and we are ready to work with you and all delegations to make it happen.

The proposal by the outgoing Norwegian Presidency to call for a time out with regard to the funding modalities and review this issue at a later stage is certainly a wise proposal. This single issue put aside, there remains however no major obstacle to finalize our work on a decision allowing us to establish the ISU. Possible elements of such a decision could be, as mentioned before, to defer for the moment being the discussions on the final funding modalities until the first Review Conference and to establish the ISU on the basis of the decision taken at the 2 MSP and understandings developed further during informal consultations and on an interim funding solution based on voluntary contributions. My delegation is convinced that if we are willing to address this proposal with the necessary flexibility and in the spirit of cooperation we will be able to reach an agreement by the end of this week. It would constitute a powerful signal on the determination of States Parties to move forward. In implementing such a solution Switzerland would of course fully assume its responsibilities and shoulder its share of the burden.

Mme Chairperson,

Some delegations might be tempted to focus on the obstacles and problems to reaching such a decision. My answer to them is: **let us inspire by the spirit of Lusaka**. It is the first time that we are meeting as States Parties in Africa, a continent that certainly does not lack challenges. But this is also a continent that is looking forward, a continent that is not focusing on its problems but is working on its solutions. And that is what we should be doing as well. **We should not postpone decisions but take them. Lusaka should be remembered as the Conference establishing the ISU**. My vision is that by the end of this week delegations as well as the civil society gathering here in this Conference Hall will report back to their headquarters: **Success in Lusaka, ISU finally established**.

Thank you, Mme Chairperson.