



The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Afghanistan's Statement on Universalization

5th Meeting of States Parties to CCM

Costa Rica

1 – 5 September 2014

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mr President of the 5th Meeting of States Parties to CCM,

As it is the first time that Afghanistan takes the floor, I would like to congratulate for your election as President of the fifth meeting of states parties to CCM.

Afghanistan is a country heavily affected by different types of explosives devices including Cluster Munitions. Although in Afghanistan the extent of areas contaminated by Cluster Munitions is smaller than areas contaminated by landmines and other types of ERW but the impact of cluster munitions to the lives of Afghan civilians has been high however since year 2011, we have not recorded any civilian casualties due to cluster munitions which is a good news indeed.

The GIRoA considers universalization of the convention to be an international legal obligation and it will seize every opportunity to promote universalization of the Convention. We intend to propose to the “South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)” that it include the issue of landmine and cluster munitions as an agenda point for discussion in one of their future meetings. SAARC is an economic and geopolitical organization of eight countries in south Asia including Afghanistan.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my special thanks to the ICBL-CMC and other involved in the preparation and release of the cluster munition monitor report. We read in this report about the use of cluster munitions by some countries and huge number of civilian casualties caused by this indiscriminate weapon. Afghanistan raises its great concern for and condemns the use of cluster munitions in these countries.

I thank you,