

**Fifth Meeting of States Parties
To the Convention on Cluster Munitions**

September 2 – 5, 2014, San José, Costa Rica

General Statement

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Canadian delegation, I would like to express our appreciation to the Government of Costa Rica for the organization and hosting of this Fifth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Additionally, Canada would like to thank Zambia, as President of the Fourth Meeting of States Parties, for all of its hard work over the past year on this Convention.

Canada is a signatory to the *Convention on Cluster Munitions* and remains firmly committed to its goals. Ridding the world of cluster munitions will not only save lives and enable development efforts, but will also contribute to advancing peace.

Canada is in the process of ratifying the Convention. Canada's implementing legislation, the proposed *Prohibiting Cluster Munitions Act*, Bill C-6, is under consideration by Canada's Parliament. Bill C-6 passed in the House of Commons in June of this year and was referred to the Senate, which will begin consideration of the Bill later this month. Once it receives Royal Assent, this domestic implementing legislation will give full effect to our obligations under the Convention.

Canada has already begun implementing the Convention's provisions. Our efforts in this regard are detailed in the voluntary Article 7 report that Canada has submitted to the Secretariat. The Canadian Armed Forces removed their remaining stocks of cluster munitions from operational status in 2007. I am very pleased to announce today that all stockpiles have now been destroyed and that the Canadian Armed Forces has not retained any cluster munitions for purposes permitted by the Convention. Further details

on the destruction process will be provided during the agenda item on stockpile destruction later this week.

Since 2006, Canada has contributed more than \$215 M to address the humanitarian impact of mines and explosive remnants of war. This has included funding to the Lao Peoples Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Palau and South Sudan for cluster munitions clearance activities. In November 2013, Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs announced an additional \$10M over 18 months for mine and cluster munitions action.

Mr. President,

In a relatively short period of time since the adoption of the Convention, there has been good progress in its implementation.

We are pleased that an agreement with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining on the hosting of the Implementation Support Unit was recently concluded and signed, in accordance with decisions taken at the 2nd and 4th meetings of States Parties, and that the process for recruitment of the Director is underway. We hope that the new Director will take up his/her position as soon as possible so as to ensure a smooth transition and a fully functional ISU by the First Review Conference.

While welcoming the progress to date, we must not lose sight of the challenges that remain. It is disturbing to hear reports of continued use of cluster munitions, including in Syria. Despite repeated condemnation by the international community, including through two UN Security Council resolutions, the use of cluster munitions in Syria continues to be widespread, with devastating impacts on the civilian population. We condemn this activity and call on all parties to immediately cease using cluster munitions.

This recurrent use of cluster munitions reminds us that the true test of this Convention lies in its universalization and the acceptance of its norms, in order to realise the ultimate goals of this landmark instrument.