

Statement at the Fifth Meeting of State parties to the CCM

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Mr. President,

It is my pleasure to attend the Fifth Meeting of State parties to the CCM. At the outset, please allow me, on behalf of the Chinese Observer Delegation, to congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of this important meeting. I am fully confident that, with your wisdom and diplomatic experience, you will guide this meeting to a great success. Taking this opportunity, I'd like to express my gratitude to the Costa Rican government for the preparation of the meeting and the warm hospitality extended to us.

Mr. President,

The Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) is an important achievement in addressing humanitarian concerns caused by cluster munitions. Since entry into force of the convention, significant progress has been made in terms of universality, destruction of storage and stockpile, victim assistance and clearance of affected lands. In the meantime, tremendous efforts still need to be made by the international community to free the world of the scourge of cluster munition remnants, which is still threatening people's life and property and severely impeding socio-economic development of the affected countries.

China is of the view that full compliance with the UN Charter, non-interference in other countries' internal affairs, and resolution of disputes through political and diplomatic means to safeguard international peace and security, are fundamental safeguards against damages caused

by cluster munitions. Latest developments in West Asia and North Africa demonstrate that blatant interference by force, irresponsible transfer of weapons to non-state actors are major causes for persisting regional turbulence. Against the current background, to prevent weapons inventory of countries in turmoil from falling into the wrong hands, and to deny extremist and terrorist organizations access to weapons including cluster munition, is of paramount importance to regional peace and security.

As the old Chinese saying goes, it is up to him who made the tie to untie. We believe in order to clear cluster munition remnants at an early date, it is of vital importance to explicitly establish the 'the user to clear' principle, i.e. the users of cluster munitions, particularly those who used cluster munitions on other countries' territory on massive scale, shall bear primary responsibility for clearance. At the same time, stark reality on the ground calls for enhanced international cooperation with emphasis on mobilizing more support for developing countries severely affected by cluster munitions and providing victims with timely and effective assistance.

Mr. President,

China all along pursues an independent foreign policy of peace and a defensive national defense policy, and never deploys clustered munition in another country. China attaches great importance to humanitarian problems caused by cluster munitions and is of the hope that the international community continue working for a realistic and feasible solution to the issue, on the basis of taking into consideration both humanitarian concerns and legitimate military needs of each country. Over the years, China has played a constructive part in relevant international efforts under the framework of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and has been faithfully implementing obligations arising from CCW and its annexed Protocols.

China attaches great importance to international cooperation and assistance in this regard. Since 1998, China has provided humanitarian assistance worth approximately 80 million RMB to more than 40 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, significantly enhancing these countries' capacity for clearance of landmines and other explosive remnants of war. In 2013, China held technical training courses for

deminers from Sudan, South Sudan, Laos and Cambodia and provided victim assistance to Sri Lanka and Jordan. At the request of Laos, China incorporated ERW disposal technology in the training course held for Laos, effectively boosting the trainees' ability to properly handle cluster munition remnants and other ERWs. In 2014, China held technical training courses for Afghanistan and Cambodia and provided victim assistance to Laos.

Mr. President,

China ascribes to the goal and principles of the CCM and highly appreciates the humanitarian spirit embodied in the convention. Given its national conditions and national defence needs, China still could not accede to the convention at this stage. However, it does not in any way detract from China's efforts to cooperate with States Parties to the Convention. China stands ready to work closely with the Costa Rica and other countries in a bid to make new contributions to future efforts on addressing the issue of cluster munitions.

At last, I would like to wish the meeting a great success.

Thank you, Mr. President.