



Statement

by Monsignor József FORRÓ

**Head of the Delegation of the Holy See to the 5th Meeting of States parties to the
Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)**

San José, 02 September 2014

Mr. President,

The Fifth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions is an important step on the way to the first review conference and especially to a rigorous implementation of the obligations stemming from the Convention. I would like on this occasion to congratulate Costa Rica for the excellent preparation and good organization of the meeting and especially for the warm welcome to the participants.

The CCM was born of a collective awareness of the perverse humanitarian consequences of cluster munitions. The twofold objective of the CCM: the desire to prevent new victims and the decision to remedy the effects of past use of these weapons, has harnessed so much energy, effort and led to many initiatives. What was true a few years ago is still valid today.

Since the entry into force of the Convention substantial progress has been made. But it is essential to continue collectively to strengthen the ethical and humanitarian norms related to cluster munitions if we want to prevent new victims in the conflicts in many countries. The strengthening of the norms also necessitates the universalization and the strict implementation of the CCM. In this regard, the Holy See regrets and condemns the use of cluster munitions in different ongoing conflicts. Their use ignores the applicable rules of international humanitarian law and provokes long term consequences for civilian populations.

The norms, Mr. President, should not remain a theoretical requirement. Our responsibility as States parties and signatories to the Convention is to respect scrupulously the legal and political obligations undertaken and implement the strictest and most demanding of all our commitments.