

Mr. President,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentleman,

It is a great honour to address this important meeting on behalf of Montenegro as a member state of Convention of Cluster Munitions. I am very glad to see that the increasing number of states supports the common goals and objectives of the CCM, whose implementation we consider crucial for the efforts to minimize the danger for security, especially security of civilians in affected areas, caused by explosive remnants of war including unexploded cluster munitions. Therefore, we strongly believe that efforts for universalization and implementation of CCM must be continued.

Government of Montenegro has carried out concrete and efficient activities in compliance with obligations, aims and principles integrated in the Convention. Those activities included destruction of the cluster munitions surplus according to the Article III of the Convention, reconnaissance of the areas suspected to contain unexploded ordnance and identifying, disabling and destruction of all unexploded ordnance found, in a safe and secure way.

We would especially like to bring to your attention the Project of cleaning contaminated areas of unexploded cluster munitions, which is realized by Montenegro with help of Norwegian People's Aid, in cooperation with the Regional Centre for Underwater Demining in Bijela, under the supervision of the Ministry of Interior. It was planned for this project to be conducted in two phases: a) non-technical survey and, b) humanitarian demining of suspected areas. The result of the first phase was that 1.7 million m<sup>2</sup> was declared as suspicious area, that should be further examined and cleaned. For these activities, financial and technical assistance would be highly appreciated.

It must be stressed that some planned activities concerning reconnaissance and consequent destruction of UXO and related materials were not carried out as planned due to financial constraints and lack of adequate equipment required for safety and security of the operations. Since Montenegro is strongly committed to the aims of successful and

safe destruction of explosive remnants of war of all kinds, with the focus on cluster munitions, we remain open to proposals for future cooperation and any form of assistance.

Thank you.