



**NORWEGIAN MINISTRY  
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**Convention on Cluster Munitions  
5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties, San Jose, Costa Rica  
2-5 September 2014**

**Universalisation Statement**

**by**

**Coordinators for Universalisation,  
Ghana and Norway**

**Delivered by Ambassador Steffen Kongstad,  
Permanent Mission of Norway in Geneva**

Mr. President,

During the year that has passed since the last Meeting of States Parties, Saint Kitts and Nevis (13 September 2013), Belize and Congo have acceded to the Convention. We warmly welcome them to the community of the Convention. In addition, we know that others are in the process of completing their ratification processes within a short timeframe.

As a result of the rapid rate of ratifications and accessions we witnessed in the first years of the Convention, the further universalisation process has now reached a plateau, and thus the number of new States Parties significantly decreased during this reporting period. Despite this being a natural phase in the life of the Convention, we continue to be impatient and expect that the pace of ratifications quicken towards the Review Conference next year.

Nevertheless, we are happy that universalisation and outreach actions have resulted in continued interest by signatories and States not Party in formally joining the CCM. We take the opportunity to encourage all states, not yet party to the Convention, to expedite their accession processes.

Over the last months, Ghana and Norway, as the Coordinators on Universalisation, the Interim Implementation Support Unit and the Coordinator on National Implementation Measures, New Zealand, in cooperation with the ICRC and the CMC, have convened four workshops for different linguistic groups. The three first gathering representatives of Permanent Missions of African French-speaking, African English speaking and Arabic-speaking countries in Geneva. And yesterday we had a Spanish speaking workshop here in San Jose hosted and chaired by Costa Rica. We also wish to deeply thank Costa Rica, Zambia, Togo, Lebanon who have contributed to the workshops.

Furthermore there has been a regional universalisation workshop for Latin America and Caribbean states which took place in December 2013 in Santiago, Chile.

The actions include as well bilateral meetings and demarches with signatories and observers convened by the Coordinators as well as the President of the 4MSP.

The aim of the workshops has been to support efforts towards ratification and accessions by these states, and to obtain a better understanding of the current status in each respective

country, including progress made and challenges encountered. Another important objective was to demonstrate the resources available for signatories, and to discuss ways in which specific expertise or support could assist in overcoming the challenges identified. We as coordinators have found the workshops very fruitful; having the opportunity to discuss directly with the participating states in small groups; effectively without language barriers. We are of the opinion that such smaller, more focused formats is a very good, cost saving and efficient alternative and worthy to be continued and further developed.

We would indeed like to thank all the states participating in the workshops for sharing openly with us information about their respective ratification processes. Delegations are warmly welcome to update the plenary here today on their activities on universalisation.

From a humanitarian perspective, the CCM is significant to the extent that it changes behaviour. Universalisation is therefore about more than simply encouraging universal participation in the Convention. It is about ensuring that its norms are universally respected and acted upon, and most importantly, that these weapons never again are used, by anyone.

Cluster munitions have been thoroughly stigmatised, to the extent that most states, including many outside the Convention, consider their use unacceptable, illegal and unbefitting of responsible members of the international community. The use of cluster munitions has been generally limited since the adoption and entry into force of the Convention. However, we continue to be deeply concerned about reports of the use of cluster munitions in Syria, Ukraine and South-Sudan and the humanitarian consequences that follow such use and we call on all parties in these conflicts to make sure that no more use occurs. More than 150 States have condemned or expressed concern with the use of cluster munitions in Syria. That is a clear evidence that the norm against cluster munitions has continued to strengthen.

Noting the ongoing strengthening of the norm, we must nevertheless continue our efforts to solidify the Convention. A challenge for States Parties is to continue to reinforce the norm against use and to end all use of cluster munitions. Another challenge is to promote ratification or accession to the CCM by affected states. One of the most effective ways of attracting new States Parties, in particular affected states or developing states with stockpiles, is to demonstrate that the Convention is actually working. Compliance with Article 6 on Cooperation and Assistance will help ensure this, and we encourage all states to work with

other states and partners to assist their implementation efforts. Next year, the Convention's first Review Conference will take place. Towards this important event, let us join forces and secure a number of ratifications and accessions the coming year.

Thank you, Mr. President.