



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

Statement

Transparency measures

* * * * *

***Cinquième Assemblée des Etats Parties
à la Convention sur les armes à sous-munitions***

Déclaration

Mesures de transparence

San José, le ...

Mister President,

I would like to thank you for organising today's debate on transparency measures. Let me also thank Belgium for the tireless and hard work the coordinator has been investing in this area over the past years.

My delegation highly appreciates the Article 7 coordinator's regular analysis and presentation on national reporting. We share his concerns in particular with regard to a continuously decreasing return rate of annual reports now close to only fifty percent of the number of States Parties to the Convention. Let me seize the opportunity to recall that the Article 7 provisions are not of a voluntary or merely politically binding nature, but of a legally binding nature.

Let me emphasise the importance of reporting. As repeatedly highlighted by you, Mr. Coordinator, national reports, if submitted and substantiated, give us a clear picture of where we stand in the implementation of the Convention. Switzerland highly values these reports, together with the high quality information provided through "The Cluster Munition Monitor" and other publications by civil society. These data, once aggregated, give us a comprehensive view: Focused information on challenges remaining can be important indicators on what further political decisions in the framework of this Convention may be needed. This aspect seems to us of a particular relevance in the light of the approaching First Review Conference. Moreover, the availability of data at the national level is also of value regarding the effective provision of assistance – for a donor country, including Switzerland, it increasingly provides guidance on how to best allocate resources and support

Therefore, let me at this point encourage all States Parties to increase both the quality and the quantity of the Article 7 reports in the coming months. It will help us to further substantiate our activities towards a world free of cluster munition remnants and no new victims.

Thank you.