

Dear Mr. President, and Distinguished colleagues!

First of all, let me thank the Government of Costa Rica and organizers of this important international conference and wish to all the participants successes in their further activities related to prohibition of cluster munitions and further globalization of the Convention. I would like to state that Tajikistan supports the efforts of the international community to combat cluster munitions that create serious consequences.

Dear participants of the Conference, I would like to inform you that even if Tajikistan is not a State Party of the Convention, in fact it is fulfilling all obligations under the Convention for today.

As you know Tajikistan is the Cluster Munitions affected country. Tajikistan never used, produced and has no stockpiles of Cluster Munitions. But, unfortunately Tajikistan has the areas that are affected by Cluster Munition and the Cluster Munition survivors. Tajikistan has already reported that its population suffers from this type of munitions. Cluster munitions have been used during the internal armed conflict and, unfortunately, these remnants of war still continue to harm people. Cluster sub-munitions problem exist only in Central Region of Tajikistan, especially in Rasht valley and Darvoz district.

Even if Tajikistan has not signatory to the CCM, The Government of Tajikistan together with the TCBL and the Civil Society organizations and diplomatic corps marked the anniversaries of Entry into Force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

The Government of Tajikistan is taking necessary measures on social protection of the people suffer from munitions as well as on the legislation and the executive levels. But there is still needs for international cooperation regarding this issue.

Respectively, Tajikistan National Mine Action Center do not discriminate landmines and cluster munitions during the landmine clearance operations, Mine Risk Education and the Victim Assistants Program

All known areas contaminated by Cluster sub-munitions has been cleared during the BAC operations from 2004 until 2014. As a result totally 503 cluster sub-munitions discovered and destroyed by EOD and mine clearance teams. Although

all known areas contaminated by Cluster sub-munitions already cleared there is a possibility that single cluster sub-munitions still exist in some inaccessible areas of the Central region of Tajikistan. Last Cluster sub-munitions (AO-2.5RT) found in 2014 in Sagirdasht community of Darvoz district.

Based on available data, about 200 people got injuries and died from these munitions. Those who suffered from these munitions have received medical care, physical rehabilitation and received pensions if they receive a level of disability. In addition, they receive assistance from TMAC VA Programmer. They participate in summer rehabilitation camps; receive support for economical rehabilitation and integration, actively participating in advocacy and promotion of Convention prohibition of cluster munitions and convention on the right of disabled persons. MRE educates community members in 5 central districts affected by civil war and internal conflicts with cluster bombs risk education.

Generally subject of cluster munitions are always included into the program agendas of all MRE activities among 24 districts.

The safety behavior messages on prevention cluster munitions hazards are described in educational materials, case studies, etc.

I would like to state again that Tajikistan never used, produced or stockpiled Cluster Munitions, but is the mine affected country with the hundreds of Cluster Munitions Survivors. Tajikistan is supporting all principals of the Convention and has actively participated in Oslo Process and endorsed the Wellington Declaration.

The issue of joining to the Convention is still under the consideration of the Tajikistan's Government.

In the end, taken the opportunity I would like to thank all the donor countries and organizations which have helped Tajikistan in implementation of mine action programme where the problems related to cluster munitions are considered as high priority.

Moreover, Tajikistan is ready to provide voluntary Article 7 report on the CCM and supports an appeal to put an end to the human sufferings generated by cluster munitions... Thank you very much!