

Afghanistan's Statement on Article 4:

Excellencies, Distinguished Heads of Delegations, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan signed the CCM in December 2008 and ratified it on 8 September 2011.

Cluster Munitions beside landmines and other Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) poses threat to the lives of Afghan civilians. In the period 1981 – 2015, at least 249 civilians killed and injured as a result of cluster munitions incidents.

As per the National Mine Action database, still 17 sites with an area of seven square kilometers are contaminated by cluster munitions in four out of 34 provinces of Afghanistan. In 2015, 165 cluster munitions destroyed in different minefields by the mine action programme of Afghanistan throughout the country. It is worth mentioning that clearance of the cluster munitions contaminated areas is included in the 10 – year national mine action operational plan but as they are mainly located in insecure parts of the country thus their clearance has been postponed to a future opportunity until the security situation improves in those locations.

Cluster Munitions are already included in the Mine Risk Education packages.

At the end I would like to reiterate that the GIRoA commit itself to fulfilling its obligations in relation to the Convention on Cluster Mentions and other international conventions to which Afghanistan is a state party.

Thank you