

## **Convention on Cluster Munitions - 6 MSP**

5.-7.9.2016

### Agenda Item - Transparency Measures

#### Statement delivered by Austria

As this is the first time Austria speaks from the floor, let me first of all pay our respects to you Mr. President and take this opportunity to express our great appreciation for the expert way in which you have been guiding us through our work so far.

Let me also use this occasion to state our satisfaction to see that since Dubrovnik, four more states - Somalia, Mauritius, Cuba and Palau - have become Parties to the Convention.

The importance of a conscientious implementation of Article 7 of the Convention has already been stressed many times and rightfully so.

An aspect I would like to highlight particularly today is the link between transparency and universalisation:

To achieve progress in universalisation, it is important for us as parties to clearly demonstrate to all those outside of our circle how

serious we are about our obligations and about the moral principle behind the CCM.

In this context, it is of course a top priority for us as parties to keep stressing the importance we attach to this document and its universal application, and never to hesitate condemning, collectively or individually, any use of such weapons by whichever actor resorts to them. However, all such efforts will not be utterly convincing if we fail to be fully transparent about our achievements and, where they occur, difficulties in implementing the Convention.

Every transparency report or update filed with the ISU, even and especially where it points to problems in applying this instrument, should therefore not only be seen as the fulfilment of a duty under the Convention, but also as a contribution to winning new “converts” to the cause.

We therefore welcome that so many states parties are regularly fulfilling their obligations under Art. 7 and we invite all those who have encountered problems in this respect to make the fullest use possible of the opportunities to draw on assistance through

cooperation with other states, non-governmental actors and the ISU.

Our special recognition goes to the crucial work of the ISU on transparency aspects and to all those especially in the states parties who invest a lot of patience, time and unglamorous, hard work in completing the transparency reports and updates which, in our view, are at the centre of both implementation as well as universalisation of the Convention. We therefore welcome the new initiative to have a reporting support room, at this year's MSP.

Before I close, I would also like to express our gratitude to all non-state actors who provide crucial and invaluable contributions to making this Convention a success and keeping it on track towards universalisation such as the GICHD and the Cluster Munition Coalition.

Thank you Chair.