



ICRC

**International Committee of the Red Cross
Statement on Universalization
Sixth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions
Geneva, 5-7 September 2016**

The ICRC would like to begin by congratulating Cuba, Mauritius, Palau and Somalia for depositing their instruments of ratification since the Dubrovnik Review Conference. Their adherence is welcome and brings us closer to the universal application of the Convention that we believe can be achieved.

Clearly, this increase in the number of States Parties must continue if the Convention is to achieve its goal of bringing about a world free of cluster munitions. The Dubrovnik Action Plan sets an ambitious goal of increasing the number of States Parties to 130 by the next Review Conference in 2020. We will have to continue and reinforce our efforts to universalize the Convention in the coming years so as to ensure this universalization is achieved. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) urges all States to adhere to the treaty as quickly as possible, in particularly those signatory States that have not yet ratified the Convention. With their signature these States have already expressed a commitment to the Convention's humanitarian goals and ratification of the treaty is the logical next step.

For its part, the ICRC continues to promote the Convention in a variety of ways, including in regional and national events to inform and influence key publics and decisions makers. One recent example is a seminar on the convention that the ICRC organized in the National Assembly of Cambodia to brief parliamentarians of the goals and requirements of the Convention. This was followed by a public meeting organized in cooperation with the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace, which included Cambodian military officials and representatives from other States in the region to help advance the dialogue on this convention in South East Asia. In other parts of the world, the Convention is regularly on the agenda of regional IHL seminars that the ICRC organizes for States and is promoted bilaterally in contacts with government officials.

Mr President, we continue to make important progress in garnering new ratifications and accessions to the Convention and in promoting adherence amongst those States that have not yet joined. Our efforts must continue. The Dubrovnik Action Plan sets out a useful roadmap for making progress in the area of universalization. The ICRC remains determined to work strenuously to promote adherence to the Convention and will cooperate with relevant actors to help achieve that goal.

Thank you.