

UNITED NATIONS



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**MESSAGE TO THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS by Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, High
Representative for Disarmament Affairs**

Geneva, 4 September 2017

Ambassador Biontino,
Ambassador Dallafior,
Ms. Mweemba,

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am pleased to address the Seventh Meeting of the States parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

I wish to start by congratulating Germany for presiding over this Meeting and leading its preparations. I also wish to express my appreciation to Switzerland, the host country of the Meeting.

This meeting is taking place against the backdrop of alarming reports of the toll on civilians caused by the use of cluster munitions in current armed conflicts. These reports underscore the critical importance of working to ensure that all States join and adhere to the Convention as soon as possible. These reports also bring into relief the importance of the work done to date to implement this trailblazing convention.

Seven years after entry into force, we can celebrate important achievements including the destruction of millions of sub-munitions by States parties, completed clearance and release of previously contaminated land for productive use and increased assistance to victims, their families and affected communities. The impact of the Convention on the ground also contributed to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Allow me to raise two key points of importance to the future of the Convention: Universalisation and International cooperation and assistance.

The steady increase in the number of States parties to this Convention testifies to the consolidation of the global norm against the horror and suffering associated with cluster munitions.

In this regard, I congratulate Benin and Madagascar on their recent ratifications, which have brought the number of States parties to 102. This is one step closer to the goal set in the Dubrovnik Action Plan to reach 130 States parties by the next Review Conference.

However, adherence to a norm, while essential, is never enough. As we continue to make strides towards universalization, the litmus test of the effectiveness of this treaty lies in the national measures that each State Party puts in place to put this norm into practice. These national measures range from storage and stockpile destruction, clearance and destruction of cluster munition remnants. Most importantly, national implementation measures are essential to return dignity and a future to victims and to their communities.

The second point that I want to raise is international cooperation and assistance, because it is key to effective implementation of the Convention. In fact, the financial and technical resources much needed for effective implementation can often be found only through international cooperation and assistance. In this regard, I wish to mention the “country coalitions” initiative of the German Presidency.

This Convention is the result of a vital partnership between States, international organizations and civil society working together to establish and implement solid legal provisions prohibiting all use, development, production, acquisition, transfer or stockpiling of cluster munitions. It is this unity that has made this Convention a success. Further action is still needed to fully deliver on the aspirations underpinning this treaty and it is in your hands. I wish you a productive meeting.

Thank you.