

Statement on Universalization
8th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions
3-5 September 2018



We are delighted to welcome Namibia as State Party to the Convention, and look forward to working with Namibia as the newest member of this community.

When we gathered in Dubrovnik, we heard testimonies from survivors of cluster munition explosions and people from affected communities. They spoke about their struggle, they showed their resilience, shared their hopes for the future, and called for their rights to be respected. *[slide with photos of Dubrovnik testimonies]* Inspired by their words, and determined to put an end to the suffering caused by cluster munitions, you adopted the ambitious target of getting 130 States Parties to the convention by 2020. This means that sixteen additional states must join in the next two-and-a-half years.

For this to happen, more encouragement must be given to signatories and non-signatories. Please do include the Convention on Cluster Munitions in your bilateral dialogues, at the highest level. Here is a list of signatories *[slide]*: who in this room has bilateral relations with these states, and could raise the convention in the coming weeks and months? Here is a list of non-signatories *[slide]*: do you have neighbors and friends in this list that you could talk to? How could you also include the convention in regional discussions? As States Parties, you are in the best possible position to bring others on board. It is also your obligation under Article 21.

The suffering caused by cluster munitions is so obvious and horrendous, both at the time of use and in the aftermath. We see it clearly in my country, Yemen, where cluster munitions take lives away and where remnants will continue to threaten communities far into the future, until land is cleared to humanitarian standards. We see it in Syria, where the attacks continue and thousands of casualties have been reported. We don't want to see it anymore.

No responsible government should keep cluster munitions as part of its arsenal. No one should want to be associated with these nasty weapons in any way.

To states that are not yet on board the convention, we wish to say: if you feel like international law, multilateralism, decency, and respect for human lives are increasingly disregarded and threatened, *there is something you can do about it*. There is action you can take. Help to reinforce international law, claim your role in multilateralism, state your belief in the rule of law – through joining and implementing international instruments. The Convention on Cluster Munitions is one of them, and it has a real impact on people's lives.

Thank you.