



Foreign & Commonwealth Office

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

STATEMENT: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE

CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS: EIGHTH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES

Delivered under agenda Item 7e 'International Cooperation and Assistance' (Article 6)

Tuesday 4 Sep 2018

Mr President,

1. The UK aligns itself with the statement of the European Union and its Member States, and adds a few comments and general remarks in a national capacity.
2. The UK remains fully committed to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. The UK's participation in the Convention was driven by our commitment to ending the suffering and casualties caused by cluster munitions, both at the time of their use and the damaging long-term humanitarian effects. We are deeply concerned by reports of cluster munitions use and urge the actors involved to cease deploying these weapons.
3. Lasting humanitarian benefit will only be achieved by implementation of the Convention by all States Parties and by its adoption by a greater number of states. We would like to take the opportunity to congratulate Croatia and Spain on meeting their stockpile destruction obligations – and I would like to warmly welcome Sri Lanka, Benin and Namibia as new States Parties this year. We have now reached 104 States Parties, but our work on implementation and universalisation should continue. The UK calls on any states not already party to accede without delay, and the 16 signatory states to make firm their commitment.

Mr President,

4. The UK is proud to uphold our obligations under the Convention. The UK completed the destruction of its stockpile of cluster munitions in December 2013, more than 5 years ahead of the schedule set by the Convention. And, the UK strongly upholds our Article 6 commitments on International Cooperation and Assistance through the longstanding provision of substantial international assistance.

5. The UK is now moving forward through the first initiatives of our £100m global mine action programme. This will improve the quality of life for people affected by cluster munitions, anti-personnel mines, other explosive remnants of war, and other effects of armed conflict. We strongly believe that support should be non-discriminatory and should aim to improve capacity in a sustainable manner. Therefore, we do not discriminate against, or among, persons with disabilities, whether they be victims of cluster munitions, anti-personnel mines, armed conflict generally, or those disabled through illness, accident or other causes.
6. The UK tackles the humanitarian threat posed by sub-munitions by surveying and clearing cluster munition remnants; delivering risk education; supporting the development of strong, accessible health systems; and building national governments' capacity to manage their own ordnance clearance activities.
7. We also contribute via the UK's Conflict, Stability and Security Fund, a cross Government global fund that tackles all aspects of conflict management, to ensure security actors have the skills, incentives and checks and balances to ensure remnants of war are managed safely and effectively, and assets are used legitimately and safely.
8. In closing, let me again stress that the UK hopes our commitment and concerted, cooperative efforts in this area can and will make a real difference, as well as demonstrating our leadership and an example for others to follow. I would like to assure you of the UK's continued support for achieving the Convention's goals.

Thank you Mr President.