



**2012 Convention on Cluster Munitions Intersessional Meeting**

**Geneva, 16-19 April 2012**

**Universalisation**

**Statement by Ireland, 16 April 2011**

Mr Chairman,

My delegation would like to thank Japan and Portugal as Coordinators on Universalisation for their work on this important issue. We would also like to commend and note our appreciation for the significant efforts made by a number of other States Parties and NGOs in this area.

Mr Chairman,

We are all firmly committed to the establishment of the Convention as an international human rights and international humanitarian law norm. To do so requires the universalisation of the Convention and this remains a challenge. My delegation welcomes the significant progress on universalisation that we continue to see. The second meeting of States Parties and its aftermath saw a number of ratifications and this trend has continued in 2012. I would like in particular to welcome the ratifications so far this year of Cote d'Ivoire, Honduras and Mauritania. Ireland also welcomes the indications that the current number of 70 States Parties will soon see a further increase with ratifications close to close to completion in Australia, Sweden and Switzerland, among others.

Ireland continues to take every opportunity to encourage States not party to the convention to accede to it. We have used and will continue to use our network of

Embassies and close relations with a number of states, including in Africa, Europe, and Southeast Asia to promote the Convention, even where the signals have been disappointing to date. We have also used multilateral opportunities, and military to military contact, to open and maintain dialogue on universalisation and we will continue to do so as part of our efforts to achieve universalisation of the Convention.

I thank you Mr Chairman