

CCM Intersessionals, 16-19 May 2012

Session on Universalisation, 16 May 2012

Statement by AUSTRIA

Mr. Coordinator,

- As this is the first time that my delegation takes the floor, allow me briefly to convey through you to the Lebanese Presidency our congratulations for their leadership and to thank the Presidency, the Presidency designate and the Executive Coordinator and her team for their outstanding efforts put into the preparations of this meeting;
- My delegation would also like to thank the Coordinators on Universalisation, Japan and Portugal, for their work on this important issue. Universalisation and comprehensive implementation are the two crucial tasks and responsibilities of all States Parties to the CCM to bring its provisions fully into effect.
- We warmly welcome the 7 States that have joined the Convention since the 2 MSP in Beirut. We also thank delegations that have provided an update today on ratification and accession processes and we commend them for their efforts and commitment; we are encouraged by the steady accumulation of States Parties to the CCM as this demonstrates the steadily growing support for the Convention.
- And most importantly, it helps promoting and strengthening the norms of the Convention and the universalisation of these norms. In the recent past, my delegation has repeatedly stressed the powerful de facto norm setting impact of the CCM that in our view goes beyond the CCM membership in political terms and also in legal terms through the incremental creation of customary international humanitarian law.

Mr. Coordinator,

- The Convention continues to face several challenges to universalisation. Awareness raising, facilitation efforts as well as international cooperation and assistance therefore remain crucial elements of our universalisation efforts, particularly with a view to help States not Parties to the CCM to overcome any

remaining constraints that may be hindering accession, including affected States and States with stockpiles of cluster munitions.

- My delegation remains committed to explore all appropriate opportunities at bilateral level as well as in multi-lateral settings to promote the Convention. And we commend the efforts that the Coordinators and a number of other States, including the universalisation team, have undertaken to provide leadership in this challenging task.
- We equally acknowledge the efforts by the ICRC and other international organizations, as well as by civil society actors and other stakeholders to promote the universalisation of the CCM. We would like to particularly thank the ICBL-CMC for their tireless efforts in this regard. These partnerships continue to constitute a key element of success in this process.

Thank you, Mr. Coordinator