

Intervention of the Delegation of Lebanon on Universalization

CCM Intersessional Meeting, Geneva, April 16-19 2012

Thank you Mr./Madame President,

On behalf of the Lebanese delegation, allow me to extend our continued appreciation to Japan and Portugal as the Coordinators on Universalization, for their ongoing efforts to promote universal adherence to the CCM, and to their active engagement in the work of the Coordination Committee and their relentless support to the Presidency. I would also like to thank all other States who are showing real commitment and promoting universalization at all opportunities.

Lebanon would first like to welcome the seven States: Trinidad and Tobago, Italy, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Mauritania, Cote d'Ivoire, and Honduras, that have joined the Convention since we had the honour of hosting the 2MSP in Beirut last September. These new ratifications hail from all corners of the globe and it is very encouraging to see such progress in so many regions.

Lebanon, as an affected State and current President of the CCM, takes its obligation to promote universalization of the Convention very seriously and gives it particular attention and priority. In this regard, we were very pleased to see that 19 out of 22 Arab States attended the 2MSP in September, as one of our aims of the meeting was to encourage more States in the Arab region to get involved in the Convention.

I am honoured to report to the meeting that as a follow-up to such positive attendance, Lebanon is conducting consultations with partners and friends, with the aim to hold a regional technical workshop on universalization in June 2012 with States from the Arab region. In line with Action #5 of the Vientiane Action Plan, the meeting will aim to set out the obstacles and challenges facing Non-States Parties in the region and will look at possible solutions and means of assistance that could be provided to States.

In addition to these regional efforts, universalization continues to remain very high on the priority list of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants. No effort is spared to raise the issue at all bilateral meetings and in international contexts, as was seen when the President of Lebanon raised the issue at the High Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly in September 2011.

Lebanon also used the opportunity of the hosting of the 2MSP to send a letter to all attending States thanking them for their participation and urging all observer States to accede to the Convention without delay.

In conclusion, Lebanon will continue to push for universalization to help ensure other countries do not suffer the consequences of cluster munitions contamination and we stand ready to assist States to overcome any constraints that may be hindering accession to the Convention.

Thank you, Mr./Madame Chairperson.