

**Convention on Cluster Munitions.
Intersessional meetings, April, 2012, Geneva
Norwegian presentation of preparations for 3MSP
Thursday 19 April**

Thank you, Chair.

Madam President, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

It is a great pleasure to present where we are on the preparations for the Third Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which will take place in Oslo from Tuesday 11 to Friday 14 September 2012. Norway is very much looking forward to hosting this meeting, and preparations are well underway in cooperation with our partners.

An official invitation will be sent out shortly after this intersessional meeting to all States Parties, signatories and other states, to relevant international organisations and civil society organisations.

The conference will start on Tuesday 11 September. The opening session will take place from 09.00 to 10.00 o'clock. A welcoming reception in Oslo City Hall for all participants will take place the same evening. We expect the conference to end early rather than late on Friday 14 September. This means that participants who wish to leave the same afternoon or evening should be able to do so.

A more detailed programme will be made available on the dedicated website for 3MSP – which will be presented to you shortly by my colleague. Before that, I would like to say a few words about our plans for structuring the discussions at the 3MSP.

The main part of the meeting will as usual focus on States Parties' implementation of the various operative obligations of the Convention. We are exploring the possibility of setting off each thematic discussion with expert presentations in addition to a general overview presented by the coordinators. We would like to encourage all states and organisations to be as concrete as possible in their presentations, focusing on progress achieved *and* remaining challenges. The meeting will hopefully in this way contribute to an even better understanding of how to accelerate progress within all areas of the Convention.

In addition, as President, Norway will seek to put a particular emphasis on the Convention as part of the body of International Humanitarian Law and on its preventive role. We believe there is reason to acknowledge and further emphasise the importance of the CCM as a contribution to the strengthening of the international normative framework protecting civilians from the effects of armed conflicts, and as a preventive measure that has removed one specific category of weapons from what were considered to be acceptable instruments of war. I would like to invite all states and organisations to support this ambition and add their weight to this end by addressing this issue in their general statements at 3MSP.

Preparations for the 3MSP will continue in cooperation with all partners, and we will have an open-ended information meeting before the summer.

I thank you for your attention, and pass the floor to my colleague Ingunn Vatne. She will present the 3MSP-website.