

Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Intersessional meetings, April, 2012, Geneva

Norwegian presentation of proposed coordinators/next presidency

Thursday 19 April

Thank you, Mr. Coordinator.

As President-Designate of the Third Meeting of States Parties, it has become Norway's responsibility to identify and propose our successor – the President of the Fourth Meeting of States Parties – as well as to identify and propose successors for five outgoing coordinators for the thematic working groups. Decisions on these positions will be taken by the States Parties at the 3MSP in September.

I am happy to be able to report to this meeting that consultations undertaken both in advance of and during the intersessional meeting, have demonstrated that there is a good number of interested States Parties willing to take on the responsibility of a leadership role in the Convention over the next couple of years. Our task is therefore to ensure that we have a group of coordinators reflecting the intentions of the decision of the States Parties on this part of the implementation machinery last year. Looking back to the discussion paper that was prepared before the 2MSP on the implementation machinery, it is clear that States Parties wanted a system of rotation to ensure broad ownership of the Convention. It is also clear that States Parties want and value the involvement of cluster munition affected states and their expertise in all areas of the Convention's work. In addition, we must keep an eye on having a proper balance between various geographical regions.

These principles do not always match. For instance, as we all know, the number of States Parties affected by cluster munitions is, fortunately, relatively low, meaning that it is not possible to have one coordinator from a cluster munition affected state for each of the Working Groups and at the same time ensuring rotation.

We are not in a position today to announce all proposed coordinators or a proposed president for the 4MSP, because we are waiting for a few final confirmations on some of the positions, but we are very pleased to announce a few confirmed proposals:

Costa Rica has expressed interest in being Coordinator for the Working Group on the General Status and Operation of the Convention.

Lao PDR has expressed interest in continuing as Coordinator for the Working Group on Clearance and Risk Reduction.

Spain has expressed interest in being Coordinator for the Working Group on Stockpile Destruction and Retention.

We are grateful to these three countries for having confirmed their willingness to serve as coordinators for the coming period.

We will continue our consultations to confirm a full set of proposed coordinators as well as the next Presidency, and aim to present this to you well before the summer break. We trust that the many expressions of interest we have received from States Parties will ensure a vital and dynamic Coordination Committee in the coming year.

Thank you.