

## **Convention on Cluster Munitions.**

**Intersessional meetings, April, 2012, Geneva**

**Norwegian statement on universalisation, Monday 16 April**

Thank you, Chair.

The achievement of the Convention can be clearly seen both in the high number of States Parties at this early stage and in the way the Convention's norm is being adhered to in general. It is apparent that the standard set by the Convention – that cluster munitions is an illegitimate weapon – has become an accepted norm. And there is no competing standard. However, this is no reason to rest on our laurels. Continuous work is necessary to ensure even more ratifications, to ensure new accessions, and to uphold the norm that any use of this weapon is unacceptable and will be condemned. There have been allegations of recent use of cluster munitions. These allegations must be taken most seriously, as it was pointed out by the Presidency of the 2MSP earlier today. Allegations demand clarifications. Actual users should face the consequences any use of an illegitimate weapon deserves.

Our joint efforts to ensure more ratifications or new accessions and upholding the norm can and must be done in a number of different ways. We agree that it is important to identify specific obstacles that prevent individual states from wishing to join the Convention, or specific obstacles that prevent states from giving high priority to going through the necessary legal procedures. And it is important to focus on what solutions can be found in these individual cases. Again, working in partnership between states and organisations is proving most effective. The main focus should be on states that are affected, and on states that have stockpiles of cluster munitions, ensuring that cluster munitions will not be used, and ensuring that clearance efforts will accelerate and victims be given appropriate assistance.

Taking a regional approach in universalisation can often be fruitful. In many cases, countries that share common features – be they geographical, historical, political or linguistic – may more easily understand each other and each other's challenges. We are therefore interested in looking at how we can support and facilitate such regional initiatives furthering both the universalisation and the implementation of the Convention.

One of the most effective ways of attracting new States Parties, in particular affected states or developing states with stockpiles, will be to demonstrate the value of the Convention, to demonstrate that the Convention is actually working. Compliance with Article 6 on Cooperation and Assistance will help ensure this, and we encourage all states to work with other states and partners to assist their implementation efforts. Indeed, all states are in our opinion in a position to provide assistance – in some form or another. And in this way all states should be in a position to promote implementation and universalisation of the Convention in this way.

Chair,

I would like to end by assuring you that Norway continues to promote the Convention on Cluster Munitions in both bilateral meetings and in multilateral fora, at political level and at working level. Universalisation of the Convention will be given high priority by the incoming Norwegian presidency.

Thank you.