

Dear Chair, Co-chairs and colleagues!

First of all, let me thank the organizers of this important international conference for the invitation to take part in it and wish all participants fruitful and further successes in the activities related to prohibition of cluster munitions.

I would like to state that Tajikistan supports the efforts of the international community to combat cluster munitions that create serious consequences. We have already informed the international community that Tajikistan is a country that suffered

from this type of munitions.

Cluster munitions have been used during the internal armed conflict and, unfortunately, these remnants of war still continue to harm people.

Dear participants,

I would like to inform you that within the framework of the programme on Mine Action, an effective and productive work against cluster munitions is being conducted in Tajikistan. Thus, during the period between 1992 up to now, in the process of demining operations, 503 cluster munitions have been found and destroyed.

These activities are also being undertaken in the framework of operations for destruction of

ammunition by the law enforcement structures. Local populations occasionally find cluster munitions in different parts of the Central Region of the country.

As it was noted, many people have suffered from explosion of cluster munitions in Tajikistan. Thus, according to our data about 200 people have been affected from these munitions. Of course, these victims need help and rehabilitation. The Government is taking necessary measures as social protection of these victims, but there is still a need for international cooperation in this area.

I would also like to express my deep gratitude to all international organizations that in cooperation with the governments have done a great job on achieving the goal of adopting of an international instrument to ban cluster munitions.

I would like to inform you, dear ladies and gentlemen, that Tajikistan does not produce, store and does not use cluster munitions.

The Republic of Tajikistan attaches great importance to the efforts and the important role of the international community in matters related to the prohibition of cluster bombs, especially to the problems associated with landmines. Our government understands the

seriousness of the issue and pays a lot of attention to solving it.

In conclusion, using the opportunity, on behalf of the Republic of Tajikistan I would like to thank all the States and donor organizations that are providing assistance to Tajikistan in implementing the program on mine action within framework of which the fight against cluster munitions is also being carried. Tajikistan supports the call and efforts of the international community to bring an end to human suffering caused by cluster munitions. At the end of my speech, I would again to use the opportunity to thank the GICHD end United

Nations Development Program for its assistance in the implementation of the Mine Action Programme in Tajikistan. I am looking forward to further strengthening our cooperation.

Thank you for your attention.