

## **Statement of the Delegation of Armenia on its position on the Convention on Cluster Munitions**

Intersessional Meeting of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, 16 April, 2013

The Republic of Armenia considers the Convention on Cluster Munitions as one of the principal instruments of the International Humanitarian Law to achieve the goal of elimination of an entire category of excessively injurious conventional weapons. We highly value it as an important step to respond in a credible and efficient manner to the humanitarian challenges posed by certain advancements in military technology.

In this regard allow me to mention that Armenia does not produce, export, stockpile or use cluster munitions and does not intend to do so. Neither we encountered remnants of cluster munitions on the territory of Armenia.

However, Armenia has not acceded yet to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. The pending decision is clearly linked to the security environment in our region and to the principle of reciprocity when it comes to such a sensitive issue. In this context we believe that while the simultaneous accession of the South Caucasus countries to the Convention will ensure its effectiveness and reciprocally reduce the security threat perception, the individual membership, under current circumstances, is inherent with the danger of a military imbalance, especially taking into account that Armenia's neighbouring countries possess stockpiles of cluster munitions.

However, Armenia fully supports the aims of the Convention and hopes that the circumstances will change sometime soon and a positive decision will be taken.

We welcome and fully support the active efforts of the States Parties to the Convention aimed at universalization of the Convention and efficient implementation of its provisions.

Notwithstanding Armenia's security considerations, we nevertheless believe that the human and social costs of landmines far outweigh their military significance.