

Excellencies,

Ladys and gentlemen,

Verification and transparency are essential issues in arms control and disarmament agreements. They refer to the means by which confidence in the implementation of such an agreement will be engendered or reinforced. Generally, verification mechanisms provide a system for State Party (SP) to demonstrate its compliance to an agreement and a mechanism to detect weaknesses in the implementation.

During my short presentations yesterday, in the technical workshops, I have tried to underline the importance of reporting as a tool and as an opportunity. By bringing the transparency measures within the workshops of the other thematic issues of the Convention, it was my intention to make it more practical and to leave the “stand alone” approach of reporting. Indeed, reporting is a cross cutting issue and can only be promoted by making it concrete and practical.

This first experience was encouraging and I have the intention to continue this approach. The format for the next meetings could be somewhat changed, but the principle will be maintained. It might be appropriate to limit it to one or two thematic session with a more detailed presentation on reporting. The subjects can be chosen after analysis of the submitted reports to identify where assistance is the most needed. A more elaborate presentation could also make it possible to give examples from submitted reports and share experiences.

The technical workshop on transparency measures was intended to be a technical workshop : giving guidance to States Parties in the submission of their initial or annual report. A presentation was made on the tools available to facilitate reporting and on how to submit the reports. During the question and answer session, some States Parties had very practical questions on specific aspects of reporting and civil society offered assistance.

When talking about tools, I'd like to remind that at the 3 MSP in OSLO, I presented a draft Guide to Reporting. This guide can be found on the website of the Convention. It was my intention to finalize this draft for the 4 MSP in Lusaka. To do so, all comments and suggestions on the draft would be welcome. I call upon all stakeholders, States Parties, International organizations and civil society to participate at making this important tool as accurate as possible. By guiding States Parties in providing detailed and complete information, we will increase the quality of the submitted reports. Thank you for your contribution.

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Ladies and gentlemen,

No intervention on reporting without figures. We should not forget that reporting is after all an obligation under article 7 and article 3 Par 8 of the Convention. Since the deadline for submission is on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April, we cannot evaluate the reporting rate for annual updates. But till now, only 7

States Parties have submitted their annual update for 2012. I encourage all other States Parties to respect the deadline and to submit their report in the coming weeks.

We can, however, give the figures on the submission of initial reports and these figures are less encouraging. 17 States Parties are late with their initial reports, which is about 23 % from which 11 are more than one year overdue. Those States Parties should be aware that the submission of the initial report is crucial for the implementation of the Convention. It allows the Convention to have a clear picture of the extent of the problems caused by Cluster Munitions. I urge those States Parties to submit their initial report without delay. If some States Parties have difficulties by submitting their report, they can ask for assistance as some States Parties did in the past. At the same time we welcome the initial reports from Hungary, Mauritania and Sweden.

As coordinator I have the intention to explore the opportunity of discussing possible actions to increase the reporting rate in a smaller informal group with the participation of all interested stakeholders. I will have consultations on that.

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Ladies and gentlemen,

To conclude. Yesterday, we had very fruitful technical workshops on clearance, Stockpile destruction, victim assistance and international cooperation and assistance. During all these workshops there was one common issue: the need for accurate and complete information on the subject in order to fully implement the Convention. This information can only be obtained when all States Parties fulfill their obligation on reporting in a timely way.

Therefore, I encourage, and I urge, all States Parties to submit their initial report and annual update as foreseen by the Convention.

Thank you.