



PERMANENT MISSION OF PORTUGAL
GENEVA

**CCM Intersessional Meeting
15-18 April 2013
Geneva**

Statement by
Mr. Mário Duarte
Deputy Permanent Representative of Portugal

Universalization Report

Mr. President
Distinguished delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Two years ago, Portugal was honoured to be appointed as one of the Co-ordinators on matters pertaining to the Universalization of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Since our last meeting in Oslo, Ghana joined us in these endeavours, and at this point I would like to convey our gratitude for the invaluable support that we have been receiving from Ghana' s team and in particular from my good friend Alexander seated here with us.

Portugal and Ghana were fortunate to be backed by the Universalization Team, to which we are truly thankful.

Mr President,

We are pleased to report that, since the 3 MSP in Oslo, 6 more States have acceded to the CCM, raising the number of States-Parties from 75 to 81. These countries are: Peru, Australia, Nauru, Liechtenstein, Chad and Andorra. We warmly welcome them to the CCM family.

A special word of recognition goes also to the delegations of the Observer countries in the room. It is our hope to be able to inspire you to foster an ever closer relationship with the Convention, not forgetting the importance of the norm it sets.

We note with satisfaction that the CCM list grew from the original 94 States back in 2008, when it opened for signature in Oslo, to the current 112 countries.

On the other hand, it is impossible to overlook that out of these 112, thirty-one (31) have yet to ratify it. These figures are a call for action



PERMANENT MISSION OF PORTUGAL
GENEVA

A call for action for all of us: States Parties, signatories, observers, friends of the Convention and civil society, be it on bilateral, multilateral or regional basis. In this regard, I would like to commend Ghana for organizing last year's Accra Regional Conference on Universalisation and to encourage other states to follow suit, as the regional approach already proved to be a very useful tool in promoting the Convention.

As coordinators, we look forward to engaging with all the countries still not Party, including those that have expressed concerns, be it on the need to maintain a number of cluster munitions for training purposes – which the Convention expressly allows for – , or on security needs stemming from regional contexts. In fact, the ratification and implementation of disarmament conventions are, in themselves, important confidence-building measures and, as such, relevant to regional stability and security needs of Countries.

As a practical suggestion, we would like to put to the consideration of States not Party the possibility to present the Article 7 report on a voluntary basis as a way of enhancing transparency and predictability. Such a step would constitute an important confidence-building measure. [Let me say, from a national point of view, that Portugal presented its Article 7 report before becoming Party to the Convention.]

Furthermore, Mr. President, where technical difficulties have prevented States to accede to or ratify the CCM, we will continue to work, when possible, with these countries to overcome such difficulties, in the hope that progress will be made shortly. In this regard, the role of civil society, including by lending technical advice, is second to none.

Following the comprehensive consultations undertaken last year in capitals by Portugal and Japan, we take this opportunity to inform that right after this intersessional meeting, the coordinators will address a joint letter on Universalization, this time through our local Missions in Geneva, to the countries not Party to the Convention. Therefore, we count greatly upon the Missions to endeavour to convey these letters to their capitals, hopefully with additional comments urging positive responses.

I would like to conclude by encouraging other States-Parties, Regional Organizations and civil society to continue to work towards the universalization of the CCM, which remains the sole existing internationally binding document aimed at eradicating the suffering caused by cluster munitions.



PERMANENT MISSION OF PORTUGAL
GENEVA

Let us continue to uphold this as a common objective, to be obtained within the shortest possible time. We count on your support to achieve the goal of a cluster munitions free world.

Before opening the floor, I would encourage you, distinguished delegates, to seize this opportunity to share information related to universalization activities and, of course, on the latest developments regarding ratification and accession processes.

Thank you.

The floor is now open.