

Draft - THE 2011 BEIRUT DECLARATION - Draft

1. We, the representatives of the States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, together with representatives from other States present as signatories, the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Cluster Munition Coalition, and other international and national organizations and institutions, gathered for the Second Meeting of States Parties to the Convention in Beirut, Lebanon, reaffirm our commitment to end the harm caused by cluster munitions.

2. Meeting in Lebanon, yet another severely cluster munition affected country, we witness the devastating effects of this weapon on individuals, their families and communities. We also witness the importance of our work in addressing the problems faced by the Lebanese people, and countless others around the world, and acknowledge the importance of achieving the full implementation and universalisation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

3. We note with satisfaction that the Convention on Cluster Munitions establishes a categorical ban on cluster munitions and requires the elimination of stockpiles, the clearance of contaminated land and the provision of assistance to victims. By these actions it aims to protect civilians throughout the world from future use and to improve the lives of those already harmed. We reaffirm our commitment to fulfill these obligations and call upon all States to respect these provisions to ensure that the Convention reaches its full potential in the shortest possible timeframe.

4. We deplore the recent use of cluster munitions in recent conflicts and condemn any use of cluster munitions that causes unacceptable harm to civilian populations and objects, by any actor. Such acts are contrary to the aims of the Convention and exacerbate the humanitarian problems already caused by the use of this weapon. We call upon all those who continue to use cluster munitions, as well as those who develop, produce, otherwise acquire, invest in their production, stockpile, retain and transfer these weapons, to cease now and to join us in the task of eradicating them.

5. We are pleased that one year after the Convention entered into force, States Parties are working hard to live up to their commitments: stockpiles are being destroyed, contaminated land is being cleared, and more efforts are being made to assist cluster munition victims. While we celebrate the success of the Convention, however, we recognize that much work remains.

6. We remain deeply concerned that cluster munitions continue to kill, maim and threaten the lives of countless innocent people each day; that the terror of cluster munition remnants prevents individuals from reclaiming their land and livelihoods; and that the lasting impact of these weapons denies communities the opportunity to recover long after conflicts have ended. We therefore call on all affected states to clear their land of cluster remnants in

the most expeditious and efficient manner. We remind States Parties of the need to avoid requests for extensions for all but possibly the most severely affected states.

7. Of particular concern are the billions of cluster sub-munitions still stockpiled. We therefore call on States Parties with stockpiles to develop and quickly implement a plan to destroy stockpiles as soon as possible to ensure completion before their eight-year deadline and for other stockpiling states to consider destroying stockpiles to prevent further proliferation and use. We commend the States Parties that have completed the destruction of their cluster munition stockpiles even in advance of their deadlines under the convention, and also welcome the destruction of stockpiles by States not party.

We recall that no State Party should need an extension to their deadline if they start early with planning and destruction.

8. We deplore that people continue to become victims of cluster munitions on a regular basis and that victims too often fail to receive adequate and appropriate age- and gender-sensitive assistance, including medical care, rehabilitation, psychological support and social and economic inclusion. We call on States Parties to increase their efforts to educate civilians about the risks posed by cluster munition remnants to prevent further casualties. We also call on them to put into place the comprehensive steps outlined in the Convention and the Vientiane Action Plan in order to protect the rights and meet the needs of all victims.

9. We recognize that in order to make further progress, affected and non-affected States need to cooperate and mobilize resources to assist victims, provide risk reduction education, clear cluster munition remnants and destroy stockpiled cluster munitions. We welcome the many initiatives already taken by States Parties towards these goals and encourage all others to enhance their efforts to rapidly advance the full implementation of the Convention. We will strengthen our efforts to raise the necessary national and international resources to overcome the remaining challenges and deliver tangible results and dividends to those individuals and communities that need continued support.

10. We recall that the intersessional work programme was established at the First Meeting of States Parties to focus and advance the international community's efforts to cope with the cluster munition problem, and to measure progress made in achieving the objectives of the Vientiane Action Plan, aimed at turning our vision into action, and at translating the legal obligations of States Parties into concrete actions. We call on all States Parties to live up to the commitments made in the Vientiane Action Plan, beginning with the time-bound elements, all of which will help promote the full universalization and implementation of the Convention if fully respected.

11. We acknowledge that the progress made during the intersessional work programme was significantly enhanced by the substantive participation of the UNDP, Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) and other relevant non-governmental organizations, and by regional and international organizations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross. We express our gratitude to these organizations for their important contributions.

12. We welcome the 108 States that have signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the [57] States that have ratified or acceded to it. This includes most of the affected countries and many former users, producers and stockpilers. We welcome new States Parties, call on all signatories to ratify and urge States not yet party to the Convention to join as soon as possible. We note that there are few countries in the Middle East and North Africa that have joined the Convention and urge all countries in the region to join as soon as possible. Our aim is universal adherence to the Convention.

13. We are proud that the Convention is a contribution to the strengthening of International Humanitarian Law. It sets a new standard by which states will be judged. We believe the sea change in the opinion of governments around the world towards this weapon will continue.

14. Our achievements are the result of partnership between States, international organisations and civil society. The Oslo Process is proof that it is possible for this partnership to take bold, visionary and decisive action to solve our collective problems and is a testament to the importance of humanitarian disarmament in global affairs. As long as people remain at risk, we are compelled to do more to achieve our collective goal – a world with no cluster munitions.