

Geneva, 27 June 2011

**CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS**  
**Intersessional Meeting**  
**Geneva, 27 - 30 JUNE 2011**

**EU Statement**

Mr. Chairman,

I speak on behalf of the European Union.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia\*, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia<sup>1</sup>, Montenegro\* and Iceland<sup>2</sup>, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the Republic of Moldova and Georgia align themselves with this declaration.

Mr. Chairman,

The First Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention in Vientiane was a great success and we thank the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic both for hosting it and guiding us through this year's endeavours to implement the Vientiane Action Plan. And we thank the Government of Lebanon for hosting the Second Meeting of the States Parties in September this year.

As participants in this room today are aware, implementation of the Treaties and Conventions in the multilateral system is a major focus of EU action in the area of non-proliferation and disarmament. So, it is pleasing to note that 108 states have signed the Convention, that 57 States have ratified or acceded to it and that the aims and ideals of the Convention have become part of the collection of norms of the international community.

This is enormous progress, though, of course, continued efforts are required. We need to increase the number of ratifications, to assist countries in fulfilling the requirements of the Convention and the Action Plan and to ensure that the norms of the Convention are universally recognised. We note meanwhile that a number of non-state armed groups have committed to clearing cluster munition remnants and to not using them. While we are aware that progress has been made, we remain keenly concerned by the humanitarian, socio-economic and development challenges still posed by the use of cluster munitions. To meet these challenges in practice, the EU focuses on the key objectives of reducing the cluster munitions threat, alleviating the suffering of victims, providing socio-economic reintegration and enhancing local and regional capacities.

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<sup>1</sup> \* Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

<sup>2</sup> + *Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.*

In light of these major commitments, we regret that since Vientiane there have been further instances of the use of cluster munitions. It is gratifying that many States Parties have reacted to this use, and we are content with the demarches undertaken, the fact finding missions and the formal condemnation of the use of cluster munitions in public statements. And we are likewise content to see that thematic meetings in states not party to the CCM have been organised, serving not only as general outreach on the issue of cluster munitions and advocacy of the need for all states to sign and ratify the Convention, but also to establish a humanitarian-based norm destined to discourage the use of these weapons anywhere.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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