



NEW ZEALAND

**CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS
INTERSESSIONAL MEETING
27-30 JUNE 2011**

STATEMENT BY RAYLENE LIUFALANI, FIRST SECRETARY

27 JUNE 2011

AS DELIVERED

Mr President,

This intersessional meeting provides an important opportunity to measure our progress in implementing the CCM, and more specifically the Vientiane Action Plan. As noted in the 2010 Vientiane Declaration, now is the time to turn vision into action and the Vientiane Action Plan provides a useful guide for just that.

We encourage all States parties to share their views and experiences on implementation of the VAP to inform the Beirut Progress Report. Of course, New Zealand, as Friend of the Chair on national implementation measures, is particularly interested in States' experiences in this area and stands ready to provide any support that may be required.

Mr President,

New Zealand sees value in all initiatives to support the implementation of the CCM, particularly in this early stage of its lifespan. The ideas contained in the paper proposed by the President for an intersessional programme are worthwhile and will allow for in-depth discussions on the Convention's implementation in a thematic manner. Our thanks go to Canada for their good work in preparing this document.

We support the sentiment of working to foster co-operation with other relevant instruments and would like to see these discussions continue in a way that preserves and takes into consideration the independent identities of each Convention.

We see value in the Convention being supported by an effective and efficient Implementation Support Unit (ISU). Any ISU should be small, user-friendly and fit for purpose. We will consider fully the proposal put forward by Norway and Switzerland in this regard.

Mr President,

New Zealand welcomes Norway's offer to host the third Meeting of States Parties next year. We look forward to working closely with Norway to help make MSP3 as much of a success as MSP1 was in Vientiane, and we have no doubt that MSP2 in Beirut will be later this year.

Mr President

New Zealand is a strong supporter of the prohibitions contained in the CCM. Any use of cluster munitions is extremely concerning to New Zealand given their indiscriminate nature and the grave harm to civilians that is caused.

In this regard, we underscore the Vientiane Declaration in which CCM States parties once again "condemned the use of cluster munitions that causes unacceptable harm to civilian populations and objects, by any actor".

Recent reports on the use of cluster munitions in populated areas are particularly worrying. UNSCR 1973 expressly calls on States to take all measures to protect civilians and civilian-populated areas. It is clear to us that the use of cluster munitions runs contrary to the spirit of this resolution and we call on all States to refrain from such actions.