

CCM Intersessional meetings June 2011

Norwegian statement on universalisation

Thank you Chair.

It is indeed a great success that only three years after the adoption of the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Dublin, we are already preparing for the Second Meeting of States Parties. We have a good group of States Parties, and many of the remaining signatories are in the process of ratifying the Convention. Even so, we need to keep our focus on increasing the number of States Parties and on promoting the norm established by the CCM.

From Norway's side, we continuously underline the importance of the CCM in our bilateral discussions with states that have not yet acceded to the Convention, both at the political level and in consultations at working levels. In addition, we make use of relevant forums to raise the issue in broader groups and encourage states to accede to the Convention, including in various UN fora.

This year we have seen two states use cluster munitions, Thailand and Libya. This is a grave situation, first and foremost for the civilian population that is affected. Norway has issued or joined press releases condemning the use in both these cases. In addition, Norway demarched Thailand on the issue together with a group of other states, underlining that the use of cluster munitions causes unacceptable harm to civilians and urging Thailand to accede to the Convention as soon as possible. In addition we urged Thailand and Cambodia to work together in order to provide the best possible protection as quickly as possible for those civilians affected by cluster munition remnants. We hope to continue a positive dialogue with Thailand on their possible accession to the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Chair,

It remains important that we continue to focus on the field realities when we approach other states and encourage them to join our efforts. It is a well-documented fact that cluster munitions cause unacceptable harm to civilians, and the Convention on Cluster Munitions sets the necessary standard and provides us with the needed framework to prevent such harm and to assist victims. This must be our main argument, but in addition it is essential to follow up on action number 5 in the Vientiane Action Plan which says that all States Parties will acknowledge the obstacles and challenges facing States not Party to the Convention and help to find solutions to facilitate their eventual adherence to the Convention, including the consideration of the provision of assistance to States that due to resource limitations may have difficulties in implementing the Convention's provisions. We would like to thank our Chair Japan for the opening presentation today in this regard.

Finally, Mr. Chair, we would like to underline the importance of cooperating closely with our partners in the CMC and the ICRC in particularly who work continuously and effectively to encourage more states to ratify or accede to the Convention.

Thank you.