



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

## **Intersessional Meeting of the Convention on Cluster Munitions**

### **Universalization**

**Statement held by**

**Switzerland**

**Geneva, 27 June 2011**

*Check against delivery*

Mr Chairman,

As it is the first time Switzerland takes the floor, I would like to thank you for your Chairmanship and your tireless efforts in the successful implementation and universalization of the Convention. We would also like to thank the Lao PDR for the excellent organization and hosting of the First Meeting of States Parties which gave the process a strong and visible signal. We would further like to congratulate the Government of Lebanon for the hosting of the Second Meeting of States Parties and assure them our ongoing support. We also want to give our warmest thanks to the Executive Coordinator and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) for their support, as well as to the CMC for their significant role throughout the process.

Switzerland has very recently made substantive progress in its ratification process. On 6 June 2011, the Federal Council adopted legislation together with an explanatory report for the ratification of the Convention. This legislation shall ensure the Conventions full and timely implementation in Switzerland. The Bill has now been passed on to the parliamentary for debate in both chambers throughout the second half of this year. Finally, their decision may be subject to our direct democratic procedures.

In any case, the ratification process does not interfere with Switzerland's continued and strong commitment and work in the field, let alone the year long efforts in the framework of international cooperation and victim's assistance in particular.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.