

Convention on Cluster Munitions.

First preparatory meeting for the Second Review Meeting

Geneva 29/06/2020

Statement of Lebanon on Item 5.

The Lebanese delegation congratulates you Mr. President for the excellent manner with which you are conducting our work, and we thank you and the ISU for the good preparation of this meeting in this challenging time.

Lebanon is extremely attached to the Convention on Cluster Munitions because it has and continue to suffer from these Munitions. Lebanon was the first State Party from the Middle East after ratifying the Convention in 2010 and hosted the Convention's second meeting of State Parties in Beirut in September 2011. Lebanon is consistently thriving to fulfill our Convention's obligation, particularly its article IV.

Lebanon, a peace-loving country, is furthermore in general, a staunch supporter of disarmament efforts, now more than ever because of the worrying erosion of multilateralism and the rising tensions in the middle east and elsewhere.

Mr. Chairman,

We therefore support your efforts to lead the CCM community towards the Review Conference in a smooth and inclusive manner, and we put high hopes in the success of the Conference in order to maintain and to enhance the relevance of this very important Convention which is still the only international treaty to contain precise obligations on assistance by States Parties to victims of a given weapon in areas under the State Party's jurisdiction or control.

We thank you and the coordinating Committee for the careful preparation of the documents for the second review conference in a progressive, inclusive, and transparent manner. In general, we support the methodology and the structure adopted for these documents.

Mr. President,

Regarding the "Review of the operation and status of Convention 2016-2020": In relation with the challenges to Universalization, we are worried about the conclusion on page 4 that "the CCM underperforms when compared to other

instruments in the field of conventional disarmament”, and we hope that the Lausanne Action Plan, will address seriously these challenges and obstacles.

In terms of Clearance, Lebanon is well placed to testify for the multiple challenges in decreased international support in some instances and the difficult domestic situations in terms of resource allocation. Lebanon therefore has submitted an extension request because it will not be able to meet the initial 2021 deadline. The LAP should address this problem.

Being a country that is under severe economic and financial strains and beset by security challenges, we can't but strongly emphasize the importance of International Cooperation and Assistance, and we call for efforts be made in order to build the capacities of Member States, to benefit more from the international cooperation at all levels.

Regarding now the Lausanne Action Plan, we are of the view that it should retain the overall structure of the Dubrovnik action plan. We support adding a section on cross cutting guiding elements at the beginning of the document. And of splitting the section on “clearance and risk education” in the DAP in two different segments, with one on “survey and clearance” and the a second on “risk education”.

We consider that the Part III concerning the Universalization of the Convention and its norms should be robust and set clear actions and objectives.

As a cross cutting remark we consider that the Lausanne Action Plan, should be geared towards full implementation of the Convention in a balanced manner, taking into account the difficulties of some member states and not putting additional burden and undue obligations on them.

Thank you, Mr. President.