



STATEMENT

as delivered by Ambassador Slavica Milacic, Permanent Representative of Montenegro to the UN, WTO and other international organizations in Geneva

Second Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions - Agenda item 8 (e) International Cooperation and Assistance

Geneva, 26 November 2020

Mr. President,

Montenegro fully aligns with the EU statement. Additionally, the distinguished Dutch colleague, on behalf of the Netherlands and Montenegro as current coordinators for international cooperation and assistance, has already provided a concise overview of the achievements, identified challenges and work done this year on the implementation of Article 6 of the Convention. Therefore, I would like to make just a few remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. President,

Since the establishment of the Country Coalition Concept by Germany, this tailor-made assistance has demonstrated its potential to underpin cooperation and coordination among all stakeholders in a country concerned and to meet its specific needs and challenges.

We note with satisfaction that Montenegro has been among two of the three partnerships established so far that have resulted in full compliance with its time binding obligations under the Convention, even before the deadline. Drawing from its own experience, Montenegro is well placed to witness first-hand the benefits of this useful tool both for strengthening ownership by the affected State and for coordination between donors and other stakeholders.

Since a side event entitled "Success Celebration and Lessons from the Completion of Article 4 of the CCM" was held yesterday, I am not going to repeat what has been already said. Instead, I would just point out that the exemplary cooperation between Norway and Montenegro has been marked by mutual trust and openness, shared responsibilities as well as strong ownership of the competent national authorities and their active participation. As a result, it has contributed to reducing donor costs.

Mr. President,

Montenegro is willing to share its positive experience with other affected states. The Country Coalition Concept is a vibrant example of a win-win approach, clearly showing what can be achieved when we work together towards a common objective. But to exploit the full potential of this concept, it is necessary to further strengthen these partnerships, as well as the awareness of States Parties, operators and other stakeholders of the various prospective of international cooperation and assistance available to them.

To this end, as already said, the Netherlands and Montenegro, in the capacity of current coordinators for international cooperation and assistance, and with valuable inputs of their partners, have developed a brochure on the Country Coalition concept.

As the Netherlands approaches the end of its mandate as coordinator for international cooperation and assistance, I would be remiss not to highlight its diligent work and genuine engagement, and to express our gratitude for the excellent cooperation.

To conclude, Montenegro remains strongly committed to further supporting all efforts to universalize and strengthen the full implementation of the Convention.

Thank you.