

Second Review Conference to the Convention on Cluster Munitions: Part II
20-21 September 2021
Virtual/ Switzerland

Address by Norwegian People's Aid
Delivered by Kristina Duric, Advisor

Mr. President, Your Excellencies, Dear Colleagues,

We wish to congratulate the Presidency on the committed efforts on the successful Second Review Conference and the Lausanne Action Plan and Political Declaration, particularly in the challenging COVID-19 pandemic conditions.

NPA reemphasizes our commitment to the essence of the Convention, where we commend the work already done to end the suffering from cluster munition remnants, and continue efforts to ensure civilians are protected from indiscriminate effects of cluster munitions. As an operator we often witness first-hand how harmful these weapons can be and what crucial difference it makes when political will is translated into actionable measures to fully implement the Convention and eradicate the harm cluster munitions perpetrate.

For this goal to be our reality, we recall our statement given in the first part of the conference and call for the affected states to commit political will, enhance national ownership and set realistic Article 4 completion plans as soon as possible.

Building on this Conference and the Lausanne Action Plan and learning from the demonstrated success of Country Coalitions, we encourage States Parties, affected states and operators to partner and mobilise joint efforts for the world free of cluster munitions. Affected states must enhance national ownership and develop strategic plans aimed at realistic, timely and meaningful fulfillment of the Convention obligations. National action plans and strategies of affected states, donor requirements, and operators must all mainstream gender and diversity and enable a tailored needs-based response which ensures meaningful, effective and sustainable solution to end suffering stemming from the cluster munitions contamination.

In light of the extension requests from Mauritania and Afghanistan, NPA would primarily like to reaffirm that we stand in solidarity with the people of Afghanistan through this challenging period. Furthermore, to ensure protection of civilians, the pre-conditions for fulfilling the Convention obligations must be ensured. Ensuring safe access, targeting the response to the populations and areas in need and enhancing national capacity for sustainable residual contamination management are the necessary prerequisites for success.

NPA also wishes to align with the statements of Mine Action Review of which we are an Advisory Board Member and the statement of the Gender and Diversity Working Group of which we are currently a co-chair and a member.

Thank you.