

**SECOND REVIEW CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON
CLUSTER MUNITION**

**Item 7 - reaffirming the determination to put an end to the suffering caused by cluster
munitions**

**STATEMENT OF MONTENEGRO
delivered by H.E. Ambassador Slavica Milacic, Permanent Representative to the UN
and other IOs in Geneva**

Geneva, 20 September 2021

Mr. President,

Montenegro aligns itself to the EU statement, and therefore I would like to make the few remarks in my national capacity.

Montenegro commends the Swiss Presidency for its strong commitment and able stewardship towards achieving a successful outcome of the Second Review Conference of the Cluster Munitions Convention. Our gratitude also goes to the thematic coordinators and the Implementation Support Unit for their valuable contribution.

The Review Conference is an opportunity to reflect on the progress made during the five-year review period - extended for another year due to the COVID -19 pandemic, and to decide on new robust action plan for effective implementation of the outstanding obligations of States Parties under the Convention.

This is also an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to humanitarian dimension of the Convention and to express our deep concern for devastating consequences and damage that the indiscriminate use of cluster munitions inflicts on civilians. We strongly condemn such cases and echo calls to the parties to any conflict to observe international humanitarian law and to refrain from such use.

And when we contemplate about the achievements since the Dubrovnik Action Plan, we welcome the significant progress in cluster munition clearance and sub-munitions destruction. In this view, 2020 is particularly exemplary despite the risks and limitations imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. We are proud that Montenegro contributed to the last year's exceptional achievement by fulfilling its obligations under Article 4 of the Convention.

In this context, we commend Germany for establishing the "Country Coalition Concept" in 2017, which has already proven to be an effective tool for strengthening cooperation and coordination among stakeholders in a particular country and to tailoring assistance to the specific needs and challenges of concerned State.

Montenegro has witnessed the benefits of this concept first hand. Thanks to the "Country Coalition" with Norway as a donor state, and Norwegian People's Aid as an operator, Montenegro has successfully completed the cleaning of its territory contaminated with cluster munitions, and fulfilled its time bound obligations under

Article 4. We strongly encourage the setting up of country coalitions and stand ready to share our experience with interested affected states and to offer our help where needed.

We also welcome the fact that more than 95 per cent of the stockpiles of cluster munitions held by States Parties to the Convention have already been destroyed, and we encourage those with outstanding obligations under Article 3 of the Convention to fulfill them without delay.

As for the challenges ahead, let me mention a few:

- To meet the target of 130 States Parties to the Convention that was set for 2020 by the First Review Conference, we have to considerably strengthen joint efforts on the Treaty Universalization. Montenegro remains a staunch supporter and advocator of this goal;
- Achieving the clearance of cluster munition remnants in all State Parties in compliance with their time bound obligations under the Convention, and providing effective risk education for the affected communities;
- Concerted efforts and devoted action are needed to ensure mainstreaming gender perspective within the Convention, as well as non-discrimination and inclusion of all stakeholders in an inclusive and integrated approach to victim assistance;
- Achieving accurate, timely, regular, and transparent reporting is an important means of ensuring compliance with the Convention and confidence building ;
- Where applicable, exploit the untapped potential for greater synergies and coordination in the implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions with the other disarmament conventions, particularly on victim assistance, clearance, survey, and international cooperation;
- Ensuring the financial stability of the Convention through the strict adherence of all States Parties to their financial obligations.

Mr. President, we look forward to the adoption of several outcome document by consensus - notably the Lausanne Action Plan, Lausanne Political Declaration and the Review Document with an aim to realizing the objectives set out in the Convention.

Mr. President,

To conclude, Montenegro remains firmly committed to full compliance with all provisions of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and reaffirms its commitment to promoting the values and objectives of the Convention towards its universalization.

I thank you.