

Norwegian People's Aid Statement on

**Item 10(a): Universalisation
Tenth Meeting of States Parties to the CCM, 30 August - 2 September 2022**

Delivered by Kristina Đurić, Senior Policy Advisor

Thank you Mr. President,

As this is the first time my delegation is taking the floor, please allow me to congratulate you on the Presidency and your dedication to the Convention and for effort you, the Secretariat and the ISU have put into the 10th Meeting of the States Parties, with special thanks to Sheila Mweemba for her dedication over the years as the President of the ISU.

For a world free of cluster munitions, the first precondition is all states becoming party to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. This is more crucial and poignant than ever, as we tragically witness the extensive and ongoing use of cluster munitions most recently in Ukraine the conflict, as well as the use in Nagorno-Karabakh, Libya, Syria, and Yemen. The use of cluster munitions causes indiscriminate and unacceptable harm to civilians, both during and for many years after a conflict is over and all parties to a conflict must refrain from the use of these internationally banned weapons at all times and under all circumstances. Universalisation of the Convention is pivotal to helping ensure protection of civilians from the use of cluster munitions and we urge those states not party to accede to the Convention immediately.

As an operator with long and broad experience in addressing the contamination and effects of cluster munition remnant contamination, we take every opportunity to strengthen the norms of the Convention through our work, advocacy, expertise and good-practice sharing. We welcome universalization efforts, such as the Workshop in Abuja, where NPA provided expert clearance input from an operator perspective in support of the Universalisation and we stand ready to share our expertise and practical experience in similar sector efforts in the future.

Last year the States Parties made certain commitments under Actions 10 and 11 of the Lausanne Action Plan. We call on States Parties to intensify efforts in promoting adherence to the Convention in a concerted manner and as a matter of priority. We urge those States Parties who have not yet done so to immediately and strongly condemn any use of cluster munitions by any actor and join us in a call for its immediate stop. The condemnations of the use of cluster munitions by both States Party and States not party to the Convention are an important drive for enhancing the norms of the Convention. However, recent global hostilities clearly show that we also need action to follow our words.

We must work together to protect civilians from cluster munitions through dedicated diplomatic and bilateral efforts aimed at encouraging non-signatory states to accede to the Convention as a matter of urgency. There still are thirteen states which have signed, but not ratified the Convention. We urge those signatory states to ratify the Convention without further delay, as this is needed in the global effort to eradicate the harm caused by cluster munitions.

Finally, States Parties should demonstrate political will through concrete actions and dedicated resources aimed at stopping the use, development, production, stockpiling and transfer of cluster

munitions. States Parties should also actively seek to update their military policies and practices to align with the norms laid out in the Convention, including promoting zero tolerance for the use of cluster munitions. This zero tolerance policy adds to the existing stigma of these horrendous weapons and brings us closer to putting an end to the indiscriminate and reverberating harm cluster munitions cause once and for all.

Thank you.