



Convention on Cluster Munitions Tenth Meeting of States Parties

30 August 2022

Delivered by Mitzi Austero for Nonviolence International Southeast Asia

Good morning/afternoon Mr./Madam Chairperson,

We applaud the current efforts undertaken by the Philippines in joining Lao PDR, in promoting the universalization of the Convention in Asia, especially among the ASEAN member-states. Nonviolence International Southeast Asia and the Philippine Campaign to Ban Landmines would like to draw attention and support to enabling these and other countries to empower neighboring states and their own regional groups through multilateral cooperation. Universalization would be more effective when it goes beyond bilateral assistance and instead complements existing regional organizations' platforms as it allows for greater and more consistent continuity in universalization and implementation efforts.

We are already aware of evidence-based realities of victims' beyond becoming part of the statistics. Victimization of communities further slides families already living below the threshold of poverty; falling victim to this weapon not only affects the individual but it also impacts their families and in most cases it sets back their families to another lifetime lived in poverty.

We support the statement made by the Philippines that highlights the centrality of victims and the strengthening of independent national capacities. In connection with this, in the context of ASEAN, we encourage states who are capable of doing so or who have the necessary legal and practical systems in place to show solidarity with their neighbors who are victims of cluster bombs. Doing so not only strengthens regional cooperation, but also creates a deeper collective understanding of the needs of victims in these states, as well as possibly paving the way for regional approaches to assistance.

NISEA joins many others from around the world in condemning any use of cluster munitions by any actor under any circumstances. Beyond condemning the use of these weapons, we reiterate our call for the end of wars and armed conflicts.