



**Twelfth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions**

**NPA Statement on**

**Agenda item 10(a): Universalisation**

**Delivered by**

**Kristina Đurić, Policy Director**

Thank you Madam President,

Cluster munitions are outdated and indiscriminate weapons that harm primarily and almost exclusively civilians and the Convention on Cluster Munitions is aimed at protecting civilians from their harm. Through the fulfillment of its articles the treaty has saved lives, limbs, and livelihoods, enabling humanitarian access, reconstruction and development. As such, this humanitarian treaty must be preserved and enhanced through full universalization.

As per the Article 21 of the Convention, all States Parties have a legal obligation under this Convention to promote its norms, work towards universalisation and do their best effort to discourage the states not party to the Convention to ever use these indiscriminate weapons. We would be interested to hear from states parties on what specific steps they have taken to fulfil this article.

In line with Action 10 and 11 of the Lausanne Action Plan, States Parties should intensify efforts in promoting adherence to the Convention with states not party. We thus strongly condemn the use of cluster munitions in Syria, Myanmar and Ukraine. We are also gravely concerned about the number of transfers of US cluster munitions to Ukraine. The detrimental effects of cluster munitions both during combat and for decades after cannot be neglected.

We thus urge those States Parties which have not yet done so to condemn any use of cluster munitions, by any actor, under any circumstances and join us in a call for its immediate stop. This is a humanitarian treaty and we call on states parties to implement it principally.

While the disappointing news of Lithuania taking steps to leave this humanitarian treaty is of concern and we strongly urge Lithuania to reconsider it, it does not by far reflect the status of the Convention and its evident success. We welcome again that Nigeria and South Sudan joined the list of States Parties to the Convention and strongly urge other states not party to follow their excellent example and join the CCM without further hesitation.

With this in mind, we again point to a great number of states which have signed, but not yet ratified the treaty. We welcome the announcement made earlier by the Democratic Republic of Congo that the ratification bill is in motion and we look forward to hearing an update on this along the way. We would also be interested to hear an update on Djibouti's progress in submitting the documentation for a ratification process. In addition, Mine Action Review has taken Angola off the list of contaminated countries this year, which we hope will encourage Angola to ratify the convention without hesitation. We further encourage Central African Republic, Cyprus, Indonesia, Haiti, Jamaica, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Uganda to complete the final step of ratification and join as states parties as soon as possible, as we have no time to lose.

States observers should consider joining, especially the affected states which have a first-hand understanding of the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions. Moreover, those states that are party to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention should not hesitate to join the CCM and engage in regional



**Norwegian People's Aid**

efforts to universalize both treaties, as the humanitarian purpose of these two landmark conventions is fully aligned with each other and would serve to further promote the synergies between the two conventions.

Thank you.