

Norway – Statement CCM Intersessional Meeting

3. Matters related to the General Status and Operation of the Convention:

(J) Developments in the context of the Convention and humanitarian disarmament

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Chair,

Allow me to first express our gratitude to the two coordinators, Germany and Austria, for including this topic on the agenda. At these meetings, we tend to look ahead and take stock of what has been achieved. Mostly we talk about these achievements in very practical terms. Areas that have been cleared, stockpiles that have been destroyed and victims that have received assistance. This is an essential part of our work. What we tend to talk less about are the norms established by this Convention. But they are just as important, maybe more so in the current environment.

The Convention was negotiated in direct response to the immense humanitarian suffering caused by cluster munitions, which leave behind a legacy of death and injury long after conflicts have ended. As security concerns shift and global tensions rise, it is essential to recall the fundamental reasons that motivated our collective action: to reduce harm and prevent suffering. The Convention is founded on the core humanitarian principle to protect civilians from the devastating effects of weapons that cause indiscriminate harm. We must not lose sight of the humanitarian imperatives that guided our actions when these instruments were first negotiated.

Norway remains firmly committed to uphold the norms of the Convention on Cluster Munitions as an integral part of the broader framework of International Humanitarian Law. It is vital that we remain unwavering in our commitment to uphold the Convention. Humanitarian disarmament conventions are not just commitments that apply in peace time; they are even more crucial in times of conflict. Because it matters how wars are fought.

Norway encourages all States Parties to reaffirm their commitment to the Convention – and to intensify implementation of the Convention. Through implementation the norms of the Convention are turned into practice and lives are saved. Our work is not done, and it is through collective effort and renewed dedication that we can ensure these weapons are never used again. Let us strengthen our resolve to protect the most vulnerable, to reaffirm the humanitarian principles that led to the adoption of the Convention, and to ensure that these norms endure for generations to come.

Thank you.