



**CMC Intervention on Roadmap to the First Meeting of States Parties on Substantive Aspects:**

**Main Outcome Documents and Action Plan**

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Thank you Mr. Chairman. This appears to be an appropriate time to share some of our general thoughts on the First Meeting of States Parties.

The First Meeting of States Parties is likely to be the most important gathering during the entire life of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. It will be crucial in terms of laying the groundwork for the effective implementation of and compliance with the Convention. It is not an exaggeration to say that the First Meeting of States Parties will be key to the long-term success of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

The First Meeting of States Parties should lay the groundwork in a number of very concrete ways, most notably with respect to agreement on (1) an Action Plan; (2) the work program; and (3) the implementation architecture—that is, the structures and mechanisms. We are impressed with preparations and progress thus far, but it is vital that all three of these emerge from the First Meeting well-developed. The rest of this meeting in Santiago should help to ensure that.

The First Meeting of States Parties should also lay the groundwork in another way. It should establish the *culture* of the Convention and the *climate* in which the work is conducted. Most importantly, it should solidify and build upon the sense of shared commitment and community that have characterized the Oslo Process and the Ottawa Process for the Mine Ban Treaty before it.

The future culture and climate of the Convention should be based on the highly touted partnership of governments and civil society that brought it about. It should be based on openness and flexibility, and a willingness on occasion to step outside of traditional diplomatic boundaries and practices. It should be based above all on prioritization of and focus on the humanitarian impact of the work.

So come to Vientiane ready to take decisions. Seize the moment, and do not delay important decision-making. “Urgency” has been a catch-word of the Oslo Process, and it would be highly regrettably to backtrack from that sense of urgency once entry into force has taken place in August.

In conclusion, let me say this: be bold, be different, be true to the Oslo Process. Act swiftly and comprehensively, reflecting our shared commitment to eradicate cluster munitions and their impact on civilian populations.

Thank you.