



**Second Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions  
Beirut, Lebanon**

**Tuesday 13 September 2011  
Summary**

**Opening**

The Second Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions opened on Tuesday 13 September with a statement made on behalf of the **UN Secretary-General**, as well as statements from the **Lebanese Handicapped Welfare Association** representing Lebanese civil society, the **International Committee of the Red Cross**, and the **Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC)**. All recalled the suffering caused to civilian populations and called for continued commitment from all states in addressing the legacy of these deadly weapons. The UN Secretary-General called on states to join the convention “as a matter of urgency”, while the ICRC urged for the thorough implementation of the Vientiane Action Plan. Addressing the plenary on behalf of the CMC, Branislav Kapetanovic invited all states to *join the team* that has successfully created the convention and is now moving steadily to broaden its membership and implement its strong provisions.

**General Exchange of Views**

The day was marked by the accession of **Swaziland**, which deposited its instrument of accession with the UN’s High Representative for Disarmament Affairs under the applause of all delegations. On a similar note, **Italy** and **Czech Republic** announced that they would ratify in the coming days, while **South Africa** expressed the hope that it could ratify in the near future and **Indonesia** promised to “expedite” its ratification process.

**Belgium** reported having contributed 12 million euros to mine action in 2010. The **European Union** recalled that it has contributed 1.8 billion euros over the past ten years to mine action, and insisted that additional funding from states was necessary to implement the Vientiane Action Plan. **Italy** announced it had a plan for stockpile destruction. **Mexico** expressed the view that all states should be in a position to provide cooperation and assistance in one form or another, and emphasized the importance of south-south and triangular cooperation. **Moldova** called on states to promptly reach an understanding on interpretive matters under Article 21. **China** expressed the need to establish a principle whereby cluster munitions are used only for self-defense.

Delivering the **CMC** statement, Steve Goose emphasized that the Convention on Cluster Munitions is “a success story in the making” and is the only viable solution to the problem of cluster munitions. **Albania, Australia, Germany, the Holy See, Indonesia, Ireland, The Netherlands, Portugal**, as well as **Palestine** and the **UNDP** also delivered statements.

During the day, **Austria, Germany, Lebanon, Mexico, New Zealand**, the **United Kingdom**, the **ICRC** and the **CMC** condemned or expressed concern about the instances of use of cluster munitions in 2011. **Moldova** said that recent use showed the need for States Parties to work jointly in promoting the universalization of the convention, and **France** said that it proved the states’ work is not done yet.

Several states expressed support for the draft documents (Beirut Declaration, Beirut Progress Report and draft decisions on the work plan for 2012 and beyond) on which the final decision will be taken at the end of the week. **Austria** said the Beirut Declaration would send a strong political message, and the **United Kingdom** expressed the hope that the declaration would be “the moment where we say: let this end, *khalas*, enough is enough.”

The General Exchange of Views is scheduled to continue on Wednesday 14 September.