



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

**Wednesday 14 September 2011
Summary**

General Exchange of Views

The General Exchange of Views continued on Wednesday 14 September, with a total of 74 states including 12 non-signatories taking the floor during the General Exchange of Views on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Steps towards ratification by signatories

Angola announced it expects to ratify by the 3MSP. **Central African Republic** said it could accede soon, now that its parliament is constituted. **Colombia** explained that its ratification bill would soon be submitted to congress and to the constitutional court. **The Gambia** expressed the hope to ratify in a very short time. **Hungary** said the domestic steps towards ratification would be completed during the fall session of the assembly. **Liberia** said ratification is under consideration by the government. **Mauritania** announced it would ratify in November 2011. **Paraguay** reported that commissions in the Senate are looking at the bill that will allow ratification and that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs would do the necessary to ratify as soon as possible. **Peru** said a bill would shortly be sent to the parliament, which would conclude the domestic ratification process. **The Philippines** indicated they were working towards ratification. **Switzerland** said its ratification was pending approval by the parliament. **Uganda** indicated that it is consulting with national stakeholders with a view to ratify in the near future.

Steps towards accession by non-signatories

Cambodia said it is committed to the principles of the convention but it has to assess whether it can comply with the convention before joining. **Gabon** expressed strong support for the convention, saying no country should ever use cluster munitions again, and restating the goal of a world free of cluster munitions. Sending an encouraging signal for the first time, **Malaysia** indicated that it is consulting with national stakeholders with a view to accede in the near future. **Morocco** explained that while it is not in a position to join the CCM yet, it is in de facto compliance with the convention. **South Sudan** expressed interest in joining but is struggling with many pressing issues related to its status of new country. In a very positive intervention, **Tajikistan** committed to join the convention. **Vietnam** is assessing whether it can comply with the convention before joining.

National implementation measures

Ghana explained it is drafting its national implementation legislation that will include penal sanctions. **Guatemala** also said its national implementation law was being drafted and would hopefully be adopted in the coming months. **Spain** announced it is reviewing its existing national legislation. **Switzerland** indicated that its national legislation would include a prohibition on investments in the production of cluster munitions.

Use of cluster munitions in 2011

Croatia welcomed the fact that recent instances of use of cluster munitions were met by international criticism, **Sierra Leone** condemned recent use, and **Switzerland** recalled that it had publicly condemned such use earlier in 2011. **Thailand** did not deny using cluster munitions earlier in 2011 but indicated it followed applicable international humanitarian law, and expressed appreciation for the workshop held in 2011 aimed at facilitating their accession to the CCM.

Other developments

Chile said it would begin stockpile destruction in 2012. Both **Croatia** and **Denmark** confirmed their plans for stockpile destruction are under development. **Grenada** called for technical and financial assistance, especially for clearing its contaminated areas. **Guinea-Bissau** said it would share as soon as possible the results of the inventory of cluster munitions around the Bissau air base. **Lao PDR** said its draft ten-year implementation plan was reaching its final stage before being submitted for approval. **Luxembourg** reported that a 750,000 euros donation over five years for the Lao UXO had just been approved. **Vietnam** explained that it aims at completing the mapping of contaminated areas in all of its 63 provinces in 2014.

Both **Iran** and **Egypt** referred to the responsibility of past users to assist with clearance. Iran is participating for the first time in a CCM-related meeting.

Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Costa Rica, Honduras, Iraq, Kenya, Kuwait, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Senegal, Uruguay, Zambia as well as the **International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent** also took the floor.

Stockpile Destruction

Slovenia announced completion of its stockpile destruction on 29 July 2011 and confirmed it would not retain any cluster munitions.

France explained how it intends to complete stockpile destruction before its August 2018 deadline. **Japan** said the contract with the firm in charge of stockpile destruction had been concluded, and that destruction would be completed in advance of the deadline. **Macedonia** announced it had discovered a stock whose destruction would be completed by the end of 2012, and that it would not retain any cluster munition. The **United Kingdom** confirmed its stockpiles would be destroyed by 2013.

Ireland said the challenge of stockpile destruction could be met by starting early and working with determination; it also mentioned that the retention of cluster munitions for permitted purposes was understandable. Taking the opposite view, **Lebanon** and **Norway** stated that there is no reason for retaining live cluster munitions. Norway also indicated that it was in a position to assist states in need, and that requiring states should present concrete plans. Similarly, the **UN Mine Action Service** reiterated its availability to assist.

Delivering the **CMC's** statement, Mark Hiznay urged states to complete stockpile destruction in the shortest possible timeframe, emphasizing that no state should have to ask for an extension to their eight-year deadline.

Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as **Colombia** that completed the destruction of its stockpiles in 2009, also took the floor.

Retention of Cluster Munitions

Germany reiterated that it would retain the minimum number absolutely necessary for permitted purposes, a number that is yet to be determined.

Camilo Serna, who spoke on behalf of the **CMC**, said that most if not all states should determine that the minimum number of necessary cluster munitions is zero.