

**Statement on Universalization
7th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions
4 September 2017**



Thank you, Mr. President.

It has now been more than 10 years since the launch of the Oslo Process that led to the successful adoption of the Convention on Cluster Munition the following year. Today, 119 states from every region of the world have joined the Convention. While we have come a long way in a relatively short time, we must continue our efforts until all the signatories ratify and all other states accede.

The CMC warmly welcomes Benin and Madagascar that have ratified the Convention since our last Meeting of States Parties. This brings the total number of States Parties to 102 and we hope that they will inspire others to follow soon. **[To be confirmed:** We also welcome Sri Lanka's announcement about its intention to accede to the Convention soon.]

With every new country that comes on board, the global norm rejecting cluster munitions is reinforced, and this take us one step closer to the objective of a world free from the suffering they cause.

My region, Southeast Asia, has the world's heaviest contamination from cluster munitions. The devastating impact of these weapons should be obvious to everyone in the region, and joining the Convention should be an obvious step to ensure no further harm is done.

Mr. President, the adoption by 141 countries of the 2016 UN General Assembly Resolution on the implementation of the Convention demonstrates that a large majority of states support the humanitarian objectives of the life-saving global ban. We were pleased to note that 32 non-signatories voted in favor of this resolution, and we call on them to take the next step and join the Convention.

Despite these encouraging developments, cluster munitions continue to be used in Syria and Yemen, posing an immediate threat and causing unacceptable harm to civilians. The CMC condemns any use of cluster munitions by any actor. States Parties should seize every opportunity to discourage states not party from using cluster munitions. We must all remain fully committed until all countries join the convention, until no one else gets killed or maimed by cluster bombs, until the Saudi-led coalition, Syria, Russia and any other actor that uses cluster munitions anywhere stops doing so.

In the course of the past year, the CMC and its members around the world have continued their efforts in promoting respect for the Convention's provisions, and in advancing its universalization through bilateral meetings, expert presentations, media work, lobbying, and outreach efforts in capitals. In particular, CMC representatives have met with the president of Sri Lanka as well as Nepal's Minister of Foreign Affairs, to push for their accession to the Convention without any further delay.

Last week, we organized a breakfast with Latin American states to discuss universalization in the region. We were also pleased to collaborate with the Coordinators this year and we congratulate them on the successful Uganda ratification workshop. We note the remarkable universalization efforts of the German Presidency, its positive dialogue with possessors of the weapon and its military-to-military discussions.

Mr. President, as we approach the 10th year anniversary of the Convention, we urge states not party and signatories to seize this moment to take the necessary steps to come on board. The universalization of the Convention should remain a priority for us all until all victims receive sufficient assistance, until all states destroy their stockpiles of the weapon and clear affected land, and until the world is free from the threat of cluster munition uses. The CMC is determined to work until all states have joined the Convention and stands ready to cooperate with States Parties, the ICRC, UN agencies, and others toward that goal.

Thank you.