



**First Review Conference to the Convention on Cluster Munitions  
Dubrovnik  
High Level Statement by Ireland  
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At the outset, my delegation wishes to thank Croatia for their tireless work in preparation for this meeting and for offering a warm welcome in such beautiful surroundings here this week. Ireland aligns itself with the statement to be delivered on behalf of the EU and welcomes the fact that this meeting takes place in a fellow EU Member State. As an affected State the leadership Croatia has shown in advocating for this Convention is both exemplary and inspirational. We also wish to thank Costa Rica for their work over the past year which has led us here today.

Ireland has been a long standing advocate for the CCM and is proud that this Convention was finally negotiated in Dublin in 2008. For my delegation, this meeting provides a valuable opportunity for us to take stock and to reflect on the success of the Convention over the past five years but, equally and perhaps more importantly, to reflect on the challenges which remain in implementation of the Convention's provisions and in achieving its universal application.

We appreciate the work which has taken place so far on the draft Dubrovnik political declaration and Action Plan and look forward to finalising these documents over the coming days. We would like to thank Croatia, Costa Rica and all the Coordinators for the level of consultation with a wide range of actors, including States, International Organisations and NGOs. We support the Dubrovnik Political Declaration as drafted. We believe this and the accompanying Action Plan represent a practical and forward looking approach, building on the positive results already achieved and imbued with the sense of ambition which guided the creation of this Convention.

With 117 states having joined the Convention, 95 as States parties, we would like to acknowledge the Convention's success and to express our gratitude to all previous Presidencies and States Parties for continued efforts to achieve universal application of the Convention and indeed offer a warm welcome the newest member to the Convention, Iceland.

Though much progress has been made we must remain active in our efforts to bring additional states within the Convention, and in particular those states either affected by cluster munitions or which retain them. As contained in the Preamble to the Convention, Ireland as a State Party to the Convention is ‘determined to work strenuously towards the promotion of its universalisation and its full implementation’.

My delegation welcomes and is encouraged by, the growing international norm against the use of these inhumane weapons which is evidenced by the growing negative reaction of many States following reports of their possible use.

My delegation believes that States Parties must continue to reinforce the stigmatization of cluster munitions and notes that a number of methods can be employed to further this goal among them, condemnation of use.

Mr President,

The clearance of cluster munition remnants is a key element in reducing the risk to civilians and in demonstrating the effectiveness and relevance of our Convention. Ireland was pleased to contribute to the Convention’s work on clearance by acting as Joint Coordinator on Clearance and Risk Reduction with Lao PDR (Peoples Democratic Republic) from 2011 to 2013 and by joining the consultation process on clearance in advance of this review conference. The third Meeting of States Parties at Lusaka in 2013 welcomed the Joint Ireland-Lao paper on Effective steps for the clearance of cluster munition remnants. This was based on the theme that clearance of cluster munition remnants can be accomplished and can be accomplished quickly. That paper recognised the energising impact that the entry into force of the CCM has had on the clearance community. At this Review Conference CCM States Parties should continue their best efforts to maintain this momentum and to ensure that the CCM continues to be a catalyst for new thinking in the area of clearance. We are particularly pleased that the Draft Dubrovnik Action Plan encourages States Parties to continue to support more efficient working methods with the right technologies to achieve better results as we all strive to attain as quickly as possible the strategic goal of a world free of cluster munition remnants.

One of the major innovations of this Convention is its focus on victim assistance. Ireland welcomes the many steps which have been taken by States Parties to comply with their Article 5 obligations including appointing designated focal points to coordinate the development, implementation and monitoring of victim assistance policies and increasing awareness raising among victims about their rights and availability of services. We welcome the recognition of linkages with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the creation of synergies where possible across all interconnected areas including humanitarian assistance, development cooperation and human rights activities. We also strongly support the inclusion of a gender perspective in our implementation of the Convention and are pleased to see its inclusion in the Dubrovnik Action Plan.

Mr President,

My delegation welcomes the reaffirmation of the commitment to fulfil Article 9 obligations of the Convention on national implementation. As a State which has adopted comprehensive national legislation including a provision prohibiting investment of public funds, we welcome reference to this element in the Dubrovnik Action Plan.

My delegation condemns any use of cluster munitions by any actor anywhere at any time and again calls upon all concerned to refrain from using these inhumane and indiscriminate weapons. I would like to reiterate my delegation's condemnation of use in Syria and our deep concern about allegations of use in recent and ongoing conflicts including in Libya, Ukraine, Sudan and Yemen.

We would like to express our gratitude to UNDP as the interim ISU (Implementation Support Unit) for their untiring efforts and excellent work. Ireland welcomes the appointment of Sheila Mweemba and congratulates her on her appointment as Head of the ISU. We look forward to working with her and her new team and to contributing to their work, in the years ahead. Ireland remains committed to working with all States Parties to agree on the financing of the permanent ISU at the earliest possible juncture. Ireland will be guided by the principle of ensuring the greatest possible sustainability and predictability for the ISU in order to enable them to carry out their work effectively.

Ireland includes mine action activities in our ongoing development partnerships. Our funding in the period since 2006 has amounted to over €28 million. This includes funding to countries affected by cluster munitions including Afghanistan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Serbia, Lao PDR (Peoples Democratic Republic) and Lebanon. We are also proud to have provided a contribution to the sponsorship programme which has enabled stronger participation at this Review Conference.

My delegation wishes to acknowledge the unstinting work of civil society, who continue to work constructively with the international community to realise our united goal of a world free of these inhumane weapons. Your work remains vital to achieving this goal.

In conclusion, Ireland is greatly encouraged by the progress of the Convention in its first 5 years and we welcome and look forward to the opportunity to review this significant progress and to address some of the challenges which remain. I will end by restating Ireland's commitment to working with Croatia and all States Parties to the Convention to make this First Review Conference a successful one.

Thank You Mr President.