

THE FIRST REVIEW CONFERENCE OF STATE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF DENMARK



Denmark's Statement at the High Level Segment

Dubrovnik, Croatia, September 2015

Thank you, Chairman, and warm thanks and congratulations to our Croatian hosts and all involved in the preparations of this Review Conference for their diligent work to ensure that the Convention on Cluster Munitions will continue its story of success.

Since the entry into force of the treaty many goals have been reached in only five years' time. The destruction of stockpiles of cluster munitions in many countries is completed or well underway. We have also made good progress with regard to the clearance of cluster munitions. We have established a firm norm against the use of cluster munitions.

Denmark is a staunch and active supporter of the CCM. During the past five years Denmark has been a strong advocate for the convention, and has actively condemned the use of cluster munitions. Denmark was amongst the first countries to destroy national stockpiles, and did so several years ahead of the deadline set by the Convention – at the low cost of less than EUR 1 per bomblet. In addition Denmark is a strong supporter of mine action operators, international agencies, and national mine action centers with a contribution amounting to more than 10 million EUR in 2014.

A United States President once said that "it is youth who must inherit the tribulation, the sorrow ... that are the aftermath of war." [Herbert Hoover, 27 June 1944]. This holds particularly true when cluster munitions are used; they continue to kill and maim civilians for decades after the fighting ends and create serious hindrances to peacebuilding and reconstruction.

The Cluster Munitions Convention, the "Oslo Convention", shows both the importance and the power of advocacy to make the world a safer, better place. In this regard Denmark wishes to thank and acknowledge the civil society organizations that have worked tirelessly to promote the CCM. Your dedicated work has contributed to every positive step along the path and I am pleased to see so many representatives here today.

And gathering here today at this Review Conference we can channel this power into action, into real implementation of the provisions of the treaty. Let me emphasize 3 points of importance to Denmark in this regard:

- We need to do more to make this treaty universal;
- We need to strengthen the norm against the use of cluster munitions; and
- We need to improve our cooperation and assistance mechanism

This to-do list will need our full attention in the coming days, and Denmark looks forward to help solving these challenges.

Thank you, Chairman