



**European Union  
Statement by**

**Mr John Gatt-Rutter, Head of Division,  
Disarmament, Non Proliferation and Arms Export Controls,  
European External Action Service**

**First Review Conference of the States Parties  
to the Convention on Cluster Munitions**

**(Dubrovnik, 7-11 September 2015)**

---

**High Level Segment**

---

**Dubrovnik, 7 September 2015**

**- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -**

**First Review Conference of the  
States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions  
Dubrovnik, 7 September 2015  
EU Statement for High Level Segment**

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, Excellencies, Dear Friends,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union.

The following countries align themselves with this statement: Montenegro, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Republic of Moldova, *and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.*

Mr President,

First of all let me thank the Government of Croatia for hosting this Conference. We are honoured that the First Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions takes place in an EU Member State, here in Dubrovnik. We would also wish to congratulate Croatia for a dynamic, inclusive and transparent leadership which has been instrumental for the successful preparation of the Review Conference. Let us also thank all those who contributed to this end and call on States parties to the Convention to make further progress with the implementation of the Convention.

States parties to the Cluster Munitions Convention will evaluate the progress made since the First Meeting of States Parties in Vientiane in Lao PDR in 2010 and take decisions regarding the practical implementation of their commitments under the Convention which will guide them during the next five-year period.

The European Union supports the humanitarian goal of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. We are deeply concerned about the reported use of cluster munitions affecting civilian populations in different parts of the world. The European Union calls upon all actors to refrain from such use and to fully observe the principles of International Humanitarian Law.

Since its entry into force, a significant number of States from every region of the world have ratified or acceded to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, including a wide variety of States with different political, economic and security perspectives. The Membership of the Convention has also increased since the last meeting of States Parties in San Jose.

We wish to emphasize the partnership among States, the United Nations entities, the ICRC, implementing partners and civil society to strengthen and promote the objectives of the Convention.

The European Union puts specific emphasis on providing resources to fund mine action, providing socio-economic reintegration and enhancing local and regional capacities. Integration of mine action in our wider development initiatives could ensure an increasing positive socio-economic and developmental impact. Where possible, we recognize the value of the development of synergies in the implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and other humanitarian disarmament instruments, as applicable.

The European Union remains committed to supporting mine action in its wider sense in a concrete way, especially in the fields of clearance, stockpile destruction and victim assistance. Since the Convention entered into force, several EU Member States which are parties to the Convention declared obligations to destroy stockpiles of cluster munitions in accordance with article 3. They have endeavored to do so as efficiently as possible, with several having already declared the completion of their destruction plan. Since 2009, the European Union and its Member States have contributed more than 550 Million Euros to Mine Action across the globe, representing more than one third of the total financial assistance provided by the international community to projects in the mine action area in heavily affected countries and areas of the world. This makes the European Union and its Member States the leading donor in this area. These significant contributions are also paving the way for reconstruction and economic and social development.

We are fully committed to improving the quality of life of affected people in a sustainable way, provide concrete and sustainable assistance to survivors of anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions, their families and communities and assist victims according to their rights and needs. In this respect, we wish to underline the strong linkage with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRDP) which provides a wider framework to comprehensively address the needs of survivors, the realisation of their political, social and economic rights and to ensure respect for their inherent dignity. From its part the EU, which is a full party to the CRDP, continues to increase the attention paid to persons with disabilities in its development cooperation policies and programmes, and will continue to do so, while ensuring that the rights and needs of anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions survivors are taken into account.

Mr President,

We congratulate Ms. Sheila Mweemba for assuming the role as Director of the Implementation Support Unit and hope that States Parties to the Convention will support the ISU to carry out its functions according to its mandate. The European Union will continue to cooperate and where possible extend assistance to help countries address the challenges they face in the mine action area, with a particular focus on the support of the affected populations. We believe that national ownership, systematic long term cooperation and coordinated assistance among all stakeholders are of key importance in order to make our work as effective as possible on the ground.

Thank you.