

Statement on Universalization
6th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions
5 September 2016



Thank you Mr. President.

Universal adherence to the Convention on Cluster Munitions is clearly the best way to end the harm caused by cluster munitions. In Dubrovnik, States Parties agreed to urge all states outside of the Convention to join as soon as possible, setting a target of 130 States Parties by the 2nd Review Conference.

Since we gathered in Dubrovnik, it has been gratifying to welcome four new States Parties- Mauritius, Somalia, Cuba and Palau- bringing the total number of States Parties to 100. We applaud the good work of all states who have promoted universalization, most especially Ecuador and Zambia in their role as universalization coordinators.

One hundred and thirty-nine (139) states voted in favor of the UN General Assembly Resolution on the Convention on Cluster Munitions, in 2015. This included 32 non-signatories to this Convention. Please, reach out to those states and encourage them to take the next step and join the Convention.

The Cluster Munition Coalition was pleased to participate in the African Regional Workshop on the Universalization of the Convention, hosted by New Zealand, Ecuador and Zambia and held in Addis Ababa in August. As a result of this workshop, 17 African States, including 11 signatories and states not party pledged their strong support for the Convention and condemned all cluster munition use through the workshop's outcome document. Most encouragingly, all states not party at the workshop expressed their commitment to the ideals of the Convention and promised to pursue accession in their capitals.

Over the past year, the CMC has maintained its sharp focus on promoting the Convention's universalization. In close to 40 states not party and signatories, CMC members have held meetings with decision-makers, written letters to Presidents, Ministers, Ambassadors and Members of Parliament, organized public events and conferences and launched social and traditional media campaigns to influence their governments to act.

This includes 12 countries in Asia, where I am from, which has the lowest adherence rate to the Convention of any region in the world. In my country of Sri Lanka, just a few weeks ago, on 25 August, the Sri Lankan Campaign presented a petition signed by 130 prominent public officials to the Office of President, calling on H.E. Maithripala Sirisena to join the Convention without delay. Like my fellow members of the CMC, the Sri Lankan campaign will not give up until Sri Lanka has joined the Convention.

We challenge all signatories to ratify in the next year. All it takes is political will. And I must also ask, what support can you, as States Parties, provide to reinforce our efforts? *You have the power* to bring others on board the Convention! Your diplomatic ability, contacts and leverage would go far in getting my country and many other states on board. There are just four years left to reach the targets set out in the Dubrovnik Action Plan and 30 more countries to go. What actions will you take?

Thank you very much.