

**Panel Discussion on Challenges to Implementation and Universalize the International Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)
October 26, 2017, New York.**

Please receive, Ambassador Michael Biontino, congratulations, from the delegation of Nicaragua for your outstanding leadership over the last year as President of the 7th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Nicaragua welcomes the resolution that has been introduced this year under the presidency of Germany, which we have co-sponsored.

We wish to emphasize the importance of the initiatives that Germany has promoted with the aim of highlighting the contribution that the Convention provides to maintain Peace and Security of Peoples, which we fully agree with.

Nicaragua recognizes that the Convention on Cluster Munitions represents a fundamental step for general and complete disarmament. The process, from Oslo, demonstrated that the humanitarian approach and other person-centered initiatives have transcended, leaving behind the classic approaches associated with “traditional” security doctrines.

We believe that the promotion of inclusive and transparent regional actions, based on dialogue, trust and on equal footing, are essential tools to achieve the universalization of this Convention. In this regard, we defend the principle that disarmament instruments should be discussed and adopted in a transparent and inclusive manner.

PRIORITIES OF THE PRESIDENCY DURING THE 8th SESSION

The Republic of Nicaragua was unanimously elected President of the 8th Session of the Conference of the States Parties (CSP) during the 7th CSP in Geneva on 4-6 September 2017.

Nicaragua will continue the work of the previous Presidency.

We will also work on the universalization of the Convention by promoting the creation of Cluster Munitions Free Zones.

We believe that we are at a decisive moment in history to achieve this objective in Latin American and the Caribbean, this would mark an important turning point. The same applies to Africa, where many signatory countries are in the process of ratifying the Convention.

We will also support the different initiatives that come from countries, in areas of cleanup, stockpile destruction and victim assistance.

We will work hand in hand with the members of the Coordination Committee of the Convention, composed of France, Panama, Italy, Ireland, the Netherlands, Laos, Croatia, Mozambique, Australia, Peru, Zambia, New Zealand, Bosnia Herzegovina and Germany. Also supported by

the useful and important contribution of the Coalition on Cluster Munitions (CMC), which effectively supports us from a civilian perspective.

We also wish to emphasize the full validity of the Dubrovnik Political Declaration and Action Plan adopted by consensus during the 1st Conference of the Parties in Croatia. This document constitutes the guide for our work toward the 2nd ConRev in 2020.

Finally, we will lobby Countries, so that they honor their financial commitments whose contributions fuel the operational work of the Convention through the Implementation Support Unit and we thank ISU Director Mrs. Sheila Mweemba for all her support.

With these comments, we wish to reaffirm the commitment of the Government of Reconciliation and National Unity of Nicaragua, to the implementation, promotion and universalization of the Convention. Member States can always count on our support to achieve these goals.

I thank you all
