



**EU Statement**  
**Convention on Cluster Munitions**  
**Second Preparatory meeting to the Second Review Conference**  
**Geneva, 4 September 2020**

Mr. President,

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

The Candidate Countries the Republic of North Macedonia\*, Montenegro\*, Serbia\* and Albania\*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, the EFTA country Iceland as well as the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this statement.

The EU thanks the Swiss Presidency for convening the Second Preparatory meeting to the Second Review Conference and assures you, Mr. President, of its full support to achieve a successful and action-oriented outcome.

At the outset, we welcome your proposed Elements for a Political Declaration: Ten years of protecting lives, ten years towards completion; contained in working paper no. 5, as a good basis for our deliberations. We support the structure of the document; and would like to offer the following comments.

Firstly, we believe that an explicit reference to a rules-based international order, rooted in respect for International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law as well as support for continued multilateral dialogue on disarmament and arms control should be added.

Secondly, we agree that the Political Declaration is an appropriate tool to highlight progress since the entry into force of the Convention in the areas of the stockpile destruction, completion of clearance obligations, or victim assistance. It is also a useful instrument to set out the challenges that lie ahead of us, as well as the steps we have to take in order to implement all aspects of the Convention.

Lastly, we agree with you that it is imperative to stress in the Political Declaration the full compliance by States Parties with all Conventions' obligations.

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\* The Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

In conclusion, we call on all States Parties to meet their financial obligations under the Convention, in full and on time, ahead of the Review Conference.

Thank you, Mr. President