

CCW 4th Review Conference
General Statement by DENMARK
Geneva, 15th November 2011



Mr. President, Ambassador Ganev,
Since this is the first time Denmark takes the floor, on behalf of the Danish Government, let me congratulate you on your election as President of this Review Conference and ensure you of our full support.

Mr. President, I shall be brief. Firstly, we should use this Review Conference to enhance the relevance of the CCW by placing priority on the issues of consolidation, implementation and universalisation. With regards to compliance and demonstrating this through reporting, let me also use this opportunity to thank the ISU for its work and support.

Mr. President,
Secondly, on the issue of cluster munitions let me remind you that Denmark was among the 30 first states to ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Thus Denmark has already committed itself to the prohibition and elimination of cluster munitions on the basis that such weapons cause unacceptable harm to civilians, and Denmark urges all states to abolish this type of ammunition and join the CCM.

Mr. President,
Denmark considers the Convention on Cluster Munitions to be one of the major humanitarian achievements in the last decade, setting a standard for what should be deemed as acceptable means of warfare. Thereby putting an end to all time suffering and casualties caused by cluster munitions. We cannot allow for this achievement to be rolled back by establishing a lower standard within another instrument. In this regard Denmark shares the concerns expressed by other states, the ICRC and civil society when it comes to the current draft text for an additional protocol on cluster munitions to the CCW. It is of fundamental importance that we do not end up with a protocol that contradicts the provisions of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Our reading is that the current draft, unfortunately, undermines rather than underpins the Convention on Cluster Munitions and we are, therefore, not in a position to support the draft as it stands.

Mr. President,

Denmark considers the Convention on Cluster Munitions to be the standard and the appropriate framework for addressing the humanitarian impact of the use of cluster munitions. Having said this, it would be in the interest of nobody if we fail to reach a satisfactory result on the CCW protocol. The focus should, however, be on intermediate steps to address the humanitarian consequences of cluster munitions in relation to the large portions of the world's stockpiles not covered by the Convention on Cluster Munitions. This can, however, just be temporary measures that supplement the CCM. The long term solutions will have to be found in the context of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

On the basis that the norms and standards of the Convention on Cluster Munitions should in no way be jeopardized, Denmark looks forward to the next two weeks of negotiations to reach consensus for an instrument under CCW.

The final Danish position will be determined by whether or not the result will contribute to addressing the humanitarian concerns of, and be a step towards, a world free of cluster munitions.

I thank you, Mr. President.

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