

**Ambassador Idriss Jazairy of Algeria**  
**Conference on Disarmament**  
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***Unofficial Transcript***

Thank you Mr. President. Since it is the first time that I am taking the floor since you have taken over the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament allow me to take this opportunity to express to you our warm congratulations and also express to the outgoing president our deep appreciation for his contribution to moving forward the work of the CD. Also expressing the full faith of my delegation in the joint effort of the P6 this year and make sure that this will not be just a year like any other but hopefully one of which we will be able to move forward. Resolutely we were indeed invited to do so by the distinguished Secretary-General of the conference at the previous plenary meeting of this conference.

Mr. President, I would like to echo the concern expressed by distinguished representative of Norway on the commemoration and the date of the entry into force of the Mine Convention. I would like to emphasise also the tremendous impact that civil society had in achieving the lofty objectives to this convention and therefore to echo also her aspiration that this conference gives the chance to the NGOs to use their energies in order to help the Conference on Disarmament to move forward. In another forum a few days ago I heard the distinguished ambassador of Brazil express the fact that some of the countries that are the most articulated in advocating the implication of NGOs, in the Human Rights Council in particular, were the same as those that opposed the participation of NGOs in the CD. So if we trust in civil society, then we should be able to give civil society a right to express itself in both forums and therefore I very much hope that we can give full expression to this use of the same standards in a different UN forum with respect to the practice of giving NGOs a voice to express themselves.

Perhaps where I path with the distinguished representative of Norway is on the issue of cluster munitions. It is not exactly the same as the Convention on the Ban of Landmines. The way the cluster munitions approach was considered was it gives to more advanced countries a possibility of substituting other equally dangerous weapons to the cluster munitions and therefore I think it would be useful sometimes to have a discussion on why it is that the Cluster Munitions Convention has not generated as much traction as the Mine Ban Convention. I have had explained to me by people back home that have a much better technical knowledge than me on the intricacies of the subject that there are such objections and it would be useful if we had an opportunity to discuss those. As a value statement, cluster munitions are extremely cruel and if there was a way of banning any cluster munitions and any substitute for cluster munitions, then that would indeed be a welcomed development. Thank you, Mr. President.