



Statement by Ms. Charlotte Skerten

**Second Preparatory Meeting for the
Second Review Conference of the
Cluster Munitions Convention**

Agenda item 5(c): Lausanne Political Declaration

4 September 2020

Thank you Ambassador Baumann. New Zealand commends your work, and that of the Swiss delegation, on Working Paper 5, which we see as an excellent basis for our Political Declaration to be released in Lausanne. You have provided us with a very well written document, which highlights all of our key achievements under the Convention to date, as well as the areas in which further progress is needed in implementing and universalising the Convention. In this regard, we warmly welcome the Working Paper by Chile and Philippines, which contains a number of important, practical steps States can take to further universalisation of our Treaty.

As a general point, we wonder if the Political Declaration might benefit from a slightly stronger sense of urgency. For example, in paragraph 12, rather than noting States Parties' intention to "complete our [stockpile and clearance] obligations within our original deadlines set by the Convention" we could commit to "meeting these obligations as soon as possible, but no later than" these deadlines.

As an aside, I also agree with Mozambique that paragraph 2 currently reads slightly awkwardly. This could do with some further work – in my view, we either need to make more of this landmark 10 year anniversary for our Convention, or leave it out as Mozambique suggested.

As you've already flagged, Mr President, It will obviously be very important to send a clear and unequivocal message in what is currently paragraph 9 of the document condemning the deeply unfortunate ongoing use of cluster munitions, as of course we did in the Dubrovnik Political Declaration. Unfortunately, during this review period, both the recent and ongoing of cluster munitions during the review period is well documented and, of course,

this has been widely condemned by States Parties to our Convention, as well as a number of non-states parties – both in this forum and others such as the UN General Assembly.

We look forward to finalising the Political Declaration and releasing it at the Second Review Conference later this year as a clear political message of our strong commitment to, and support for, the Convention and its norms.