

**Statement of the Delegation of the Republic of Indonesia  
At the International Conference on the Convention on Cluster Munitions  
Santiago, Chile, 7-9 June 2010**

Presented by Miss Rofita Djamawar, Chargée d'Affaires a.i. of the Embassy of Indonesia to Chile

Distinguished Participants  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to thank the host country, Chile, as well as sponsoring countries, for inviting us to participate in this meeting.

Indonesia had actively participated in the "Oslo Process" from the early commencement of the process because we believe that the use of cluster munitions has inflicted grievous harm on civilians in many parts of the world.

Our deep involvement in this endeavour is in line with our constitutional mandate to actively participate in a world order based on freedom, durable peace and social justice. Indonesia is among the first to sign the Convention because we strongly believe in its importance as a tool of disarmament and as a way of addressing a serious and widespread humanitarian problem caused by cluster munitions.

For the Asia-Pacific region, there are countries that produce, stockpile and are affected by cluster munitions. Historically, this region, particularly the Southeast Asian heartland, has been the most severely affected by cluster munitions and has suffered brutal and widespread damage due to their indiscriminate and irresponsible use. Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia have the greatest number of civilian casualties, as millions of cluster munitions were abandoned on the ground in these countries during the Indochina war of the 1970s.

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Against this backdrop, Indonesia, with a great support from the Government of Germany, Norway, Austria, and Australia as well as the UNDP, ICRC and Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), hosted the "Regional Conference on the Promotion and Universalization of the Convention on Cluster Munitions", held in Bali, Indonesia, on 16-17 November 2009.

The Conference was aimed as a venue for informing non-signatory states in the Asia-Pacific region about the contents of the Convention and the obligations of signatory states that it stipulates. Moreover, the Conference also served as a forum for productive and useful exchange of views regarding the importance of addressing the cluster munitions problem and the challenges to the universalisation of the Convention.

Wide-range of topics had been discussed during the Conference, namely: understanding the Cluster Munitions Convention; perspectives from the Most Affected Countries and Victims, cooperation and assistance; national implementation; as well as the destruction of cluster munitions.

Pertaining to the Convention, the participants discussed the achievement of the Convention and pointed out the remaining efforts to be made to ensure efficient implementation. The comprehensive nature of the Convention was also discussed using the broad definition of a cluster munitions victim as an example. This powerful tool requires effective implementation to make progress. This will depend not only to the quality of international support for affected countries, but also on national ownership and political will.

On the issues of victims and affected countries' perspectives, several representatives from affected countries highlighted the extent of contamination in their respective countries. The clearance will require decades and cost millions. In addition, cluster munitions victims shared the difficulties and numerous challenges encountered after their accidents. Discussion also covered the correlation between

unexploded ordnance (UXO) contamination and poverty, and provided information on national programmes created to clear Explosive Remnants of War (ERW).

With regard to the cooperation and assistance, the participants intensively discussed all issues related to the Article 6 of the Convention that requires each States Party to cooperate with and assist other States Parties towards the completion of their obligations. Several speakers provided inputs on cooperation and assistance from a donor and an international organization perspective. Capacity building and national ownership issues were also discussed during this session.

During the discussion of the national implementation issues, several speakers provided the participants with legal and technical perspectives connected to the national implementation. Concrete efforts made to allow implementation of the Convention were also presented. Discussion stressed that strong national legislation and action plans for implementation of the action programmes were of the utmost importance for prompt and efficient national implementation of the Convention.

The participants also discussed the issue of the cluster munitions destruction by exchanging technical information on stockpile destruction that covering international standards, its technical challenges, as well as some options for stockpile destruction procedures.

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Conference, being participated by a good balance of signatory and non-signatory states from the region and beyond, has seen a good exchange of information and experiences with regards to the obligation of the Convention. In addition, frank assessment by regional countries of the situation in relations to the embrace of the Convention on Cluster Munitions in the region was shared.

Indonesia believes that these types of engagement is useful to give better understanding on the provisions of the Convention and ultimately to getting countries closer to signing and ratifying the Convention.

The partnership between governments, the United Nations and other international organizations as well as civil society which has marked the process towards the conclusion of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, was too being replicated in the conference. Active participation and engagement by representatives of international organizations and civil society in this conference have enriched the discussion.

Just few months after the Bali Conference, in February 2010, we have reached the 30<sup>th</sup> signatory state that ratified the CCM. This means that on August 1, 2010, the Convention will enter into force. We also welcome the readiness of the Government of Lao PDR to host the First Meeting of States parties to the Convention to be held in November this year.

Distinguished Participants

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On our part, Indonesia, soon after signing the Convention, has carried out activities to promote awareness of it among our national stakeholders. We continue to engage in dialogue with the military establishment and similarly with the members of parliament and other stakeholders with a view to pave the way toward a smooth ratification process.

However, it should be emphasized that the decision to be a party to the Convention is strictly within the domestic jurisdiction of the state concerned. That decision must be based on its perception of its own national interest. However, to advance the cause of disarmament and promoting humanitarianism, we cannot afford a long wait for the Convention's entry into force as the number of victims, of cluster munitions keeps rising every day.

I thank you.