



NORWAY

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**STATEMENT BY NORWAY AT THE THIRD REVIEW
CONFERENCE OF THE CCW**

BY

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We much appreciate the endeavours of Sweden to capture and express the will of many states to seriously address the humanitarian toll caused by certain types of cluster munitions. The Declaration that has just been presented on behalf of a significant number of States Parties to this Convention is an expression of the fact that the cluster munitions issue has gained the attention and concern to an extent that we have not witnessed before.

However, we have also taken note of the fact that this Conference has not been able to find an effective way of securing that the humanitarian impact of the use of cluster munitions is urgently and adequately dealt with.

That is why the Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs today has made a statement that he has decided that Norway will organise an international conference in Oslo to start a process towards an international ban on cluster munitions that have unacceptable humanitarian consequences.

In his statement the Minister of Foreign Affairs says: "We must now establish concrete measures that will put an end to the untold human suffering caused by cluster munitions, and we are pleased to note the increasing calls for an international ban. Norway is ready to work closely with others to establish such a ban. We must take advantage of the political will now evident in many countries to prohibit cluster munitions that cause unacceptable humanitarian harm. The time is ripe to establish broad cooperation on a concerted effort to achieve a ban."

Norway will now invite countries that have expressed an interest and a will to take urgent action to address the cluster munitions problem, together with other partners such as the relevant UN organisations, the Red Cross movement and other humanitarian and non-governmental organisations, to an international conference in Oslo to get this process started. The efforts to achieve an international ban on cluster munitions will be an important part of our efforts to prevent humanitarian disasters. Every day there are reports of new victims of cluster munitions. There is every indication that the problem will only get worse in the future. This could have enormous humanitarian consequences and pose a major obstacle to reconstruction and socio-economic development if we don't take immediate and effective action.

We are well aware of the complexities of the issue, but we do think that acting in good faith we together can find solutions that combine the humanitarian needs with what is militarily acceptable and politically possible.

In this spirit we want to establish a partnership with other countries and organisations that can yield concrete results that will prevent future human suffering.