

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear colleagues, activists,

At first I would like to greet and welcome you all warmly. I would also like to express on behalf of our Cluster Munitions Coalition our satisfaction with the number of you present. Today 23 countries which have experienced the horror of cluster munitions use are gathered here.

These countries are here to talk about their experience and needs, and to raise their voice against cluster munitions. They are here to contribute to the ban of these monstrous weapons, which have a great impact on the civilian suffering. Their experience and contribution are of great value to this process. Only through experience of affected countries, survivors, those assisting victims, and clearance experts, we can establish key elements of the future treaty. Those elements are:

- Victim assistance**
- Clearance**
- International cooperation and assistance**

This moment is very important to me, and I'm very content because so many countries accepted the invitation of Serbian Government.

At our first Conference in Oslo eight months ago, when I was asked to estimate when this process was going to be finalized, I answered that it would take a long time to conclude it but that it would surely end well. I was convinced that a great number of countries would stand against cluster munitions ban. I'm pleased that today I have an opportunity to correct myself, and to say that the Oslo Process will be finalized much faster than I expected. Majority of countries have already accepted the importance of this process. Some former cluster munitions advocates, who speared no means to defend the use of cluster munitions, have themselves realized the importance of this issue. They changed their position and took part in the Oslo Process. At this moment there are 80 states participants in it, which makes a great success. I hope that the number of countries that are endorsing this treaty will continue to grow even faster.

This makes me believe that we are far from the start and that we are already very near to our goal.

Please allow me to remind you once more of our cause- our cause isn't to judge or to make life difficult to arms producers and national defense. Our goal is prevent further sufferings of innocent civilians, and enlighten as much as we can the damage already done.

Our goal is to guard human lives, because we have an opportunity to do it.

Let's give our best to working together to stop production, transfer, use and stockpiling of cluster munitions.

Thank you