



**Statement by Katy Donnelly
Deputy Permanent Representative to
the Conference on Disarmament**

**Convention on Cluster Munitions
8th Meeting of States Parties**

Universalisation

3 September 2018

Thank you Mr President,

As this is the first time my delegation has taken the floor, please allow me to congratulate the Nicaraguan Presidency of this Conference for your commitment to ensuring our Convention's 10th anniversary year is a real cause for celebration. Building on the excellent work of the previous President, Germany, progress has been made towards the objectives we set in the Dubrovnik Action Plan and the 2016 Political Declaration. We welcome, too, the efforts of our co-coordinators France and Panama, in promoting universalisation of our Convention over the past year.

New Zealand congratulates Sri Lanka and Benin for having joined the Convention earlier this year – we look forward to working closely with you over the coming year. We are thrilled, too, that Namibia has also joined the CCM family over the last couple of days, bringing the total number of States Parties to 104. We have a long way to go to achieve universalisation – or indeed the target we set ourselves of 130 States Parties by 2020 – but we have no doubt that our newest members will bring insights and energy to help us move forward.

Mr President,

New Zealand has been working hard to promote our Convention, with a particular focus this year on the Pacific. In February, we hosted a

conference in Auckland, co-sponsored also by our close neighbour Australia, in which we brought together 12 Pacific Islands to discuss conventional weapons treaties including the Convention on Cluster Munitions. We were very lucky to have a representative of our excellent Implementation Support Unit, Matthieu Laruelle, at the Conference, with our Pacific partners pleased to have the opportunity to exchange information and experiences directly with the ISU.

Uptake of the CCM is relatively low in the Pacific, with our partners in the region identifying a number of challenges to ratification. As is the case with other regions, the Pacific faces a range of competing priorities as well as significant resource constraints. Notwithstanding these challenges a number of participants in the Auckland Conference committed to positively consider membership of the CCM. More broadly, participants in the Conference reflected on the humanitarian imperative for joining the Convention, which is captured in the Auckland Declaration in the following way:

"The region accepts the clear moral and humanitarian rationale for joining the CCM and the Convention's resonance with the region is reflected in Pacific states voting in favour of each of the UN General Assembly resolutions promoting adherence to it. Pacific states are also aware of the long-term harm caused by the previous use of cluster munitions in some neighbouring Asian states and accept that Pacific membership of the Convention sends an important message of solidarity with the broader region."

New Zealand has stayed in close contact with our Pacific neighbours on the CCM, conducting five bilateral visits since the Auckland Conference. We will continue to support our Pacific partners in their efforts to join and implement the Convention.

New Zealand was again pleased to support the CCM resolution at the UN General Assembly in 2017, which highlighted the support enjoyed the Convention, including in many States that are not yet party. We will continue to promote the resolution this year, including to turn abstentions into positive votes and positive votes into signatures and ratifications of the Convention.

Mr President,

The urgency with which we must pursue universalisation and full implementation of our Convention has only been reinforced by evidence of the ongoing harm being caused by cluster munitions use. We welcome evidence in the Cluster Munition Monitor of the sharp decrease in cluster munition casualties between 2016 and 2017. This is, of course, cause for celebration but not for complacency. Our community is striving for a world where there are no casualties, either from cluster munition attacks or cluster munition remnants, and we remain committed to achieving zero.

New Zealand continues to unreservedly condemn any and all instances of the use of cluster munitions, including in Syria and Yemen. New use compounds the suffering of those caught up in these seemingly intractable conflicts, and will continue to hamper recovery efforts and undermine confidence even when the worst is over. We welcome all efforts to strengthen the norm against cluster munitions and consider that further work can be done over the coming year in this regard, both with respect to the condemnation of confirmed uses of cluster munitions and to efforts to end investments in the production of these inhumane weapons. New Zealand looks forward to working with the CCM family to this end.

Finally, New Zealand would like to reiterate our ongoing appreciation of the work of the Cluster Munition Coalition, including its tireless production of the Cluster Munition Monitor. We wish to take this opportunity to congratulate Hector Guerra on his appointment as its new director and to thank Amelie Cheyer for her important contributions as Acting Director. New Zealand looks forward to continuing our excellent working relationship with the Coalition.

Thank you.