

Intervention of Lebanon
Berlin Conference on the Destruction of Cluster Munitions (25, 26 June 2009)

Delivered by Ahmad Arafa

Mr. Co-Chair,

Allow me to join previous speakers in congratulating our hosts, the Governments of Germany and Norway, for the excellent organization of this timely and important conference.

Lebanon, as a country severely affected by cluster munitions, considers this conference as an important step in putting an end to an infamous weapon and it highlights a continuous desire towards that end; addressing article 3 of the Convention of Cluster Munitions -CCM- contributes to the compliance with the spirit of the CCM in terms of prohibiting the use of cluster munitions, hindering proliferation and protecting lives and livelihoods.

Lebanon calls on all countries stockpiling cluster munitions to start without delay destroying their stockpiles, pending the entry into force of the CCM. And in the context of this conference, these countries shall take advantage of the information, methods, mechanisms and experiences shared over the past two days.

At the end, Lebanon welcomes the offer of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to host the First Meeting of States Parties to the CCM, and we extend our full support.

I thank you Mr. Co-Chair

Friday, 26th June, 2009