

**Berlin Conference on Destruction of Cluster Munitions, 25 – 26 June 2009.
Retention of Cluster Munitions.
Intervention by Steffen Kongstad, Director General, MFA, Norway.**

Mr Chair,

Referring to what has been said by some of the speakers during this session, we find that the premise that cluster munitions will continue to be produced stockpiled and eventually used to an extent that can justify the retention of cluster munitions in accordance with Art 3, is in our view false. That is to underestimate the impact of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the development of military tactical doctrines.

There are at least two lessons to be learned from the Mine Ban Convention:

- The retention clause or possibility has created a loophole allowing unjustifiable numbers of anti-personnel mines to be retained.
- There is no documentation to suggest that such retention of anti-personnel mines have improved training or equipment that cannot be achieved without retained mines.

Another highly relevant fact is that most of the clearance of explosives is undertaken by civilian humanitarian organisations. They not sample cluster munitions or other explosives for training purposes or testing of equipment.

There will always be arguments for what might be *nice* to have from a purely technical point of view, but still not *necessary*, and certainly from a humanitarian point of view not desirable or acceptable. So, as it was said by several speakers yesterday, the right number of cluster munitions to retain is zero.

Thank you, Mr Chair.