



IRELAND

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

**Intervention on
National Implementation Measures
4 September 2018**

Mr President,

At the outset, I would like to thank New Zealand for their hard work and efforts as Coordinator for National Implementation Measures on the CCM Coordination Committee.

Ireland places great value in the CCM and we continue to view its successful implementation and effectiveness as a priority. The development and adoption of effective national measures including, legislation and military rules, can often be complicated and time-consuming; however, it is fundamental to ensuring the achievement of the Convention's objectives.

Through the *Cluster Munitions and Anti-Personnel Mines Act 2008*, Ireland introduced legislation designed to give effect to the CCM. This legislation makes it an offence, subject to certain exceptions provided for in the CCM, to use, develop, produce, acquire, possess, retain or transfer cluster munitions or explosive bomblets, or to assist, encourage or induce the commission of such acts.

The Act provides for penalties to be imposed upon those who are in breach of the provisions and covers the commission of such acts to ships and aircraft that are registered in Ireland, as well as by members of the Defence Forces and citizens of Ireland who are outside the State. In 2009, the Irish Defence Forces issued an instruction which implemented the relevant CCM provisions during Defence Force deployments, both at home and overseas.

The Act also explicitly prohibits the direct and indirect investment of public money in companies that are involved in the manufacture of cluster munitions. Ireland was one of the first countries in the world to put in place such a prohibition, underlining our strong commitment to give effect and implement the CCM. The Ireland Strategic Investment Fund, is one such example of this provision in effect. It has disinvested funds from six international companies linked to the manufacture of cluster munitions, and it maintains a list of companies that are excluded from the Fund.

In keeping with the objectives of our Convention and Action 7 of the Dubrovnik Action Plan, Ireland would encourage any State Party that has not already taken on

action to explicitly prohibit the direct and indirect investment of public monies in companies that are involved in the manufacture of cluster munitions to do so as soon as possible.

It is our view that investing in or financing prohibited weapon production undermines the international legal framework that governs their prohibition.

Mr President,

In addition to the legislative implementation measures I have mentioned, this year Ireland contributed to the CCM Implementation Support Unit. The ISU provides much needed information and assistance to affected countries, allowing for greater cohesion and effectiveness in mine clearance and destruction activities. Their work greatly contributes to the network of governments and NGOS working to stabilise countries recovering from conflict that have been affected by cluster munitions.

Thank you.