

COSTA RICA

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CCW Fourth Review Conference. General Debate. 14 November 2011

Mr. President,

I take the floor on behalf of Austria, Burkina Faso, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Holy See, Iceland, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mali, Mexico, Mozambique, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Togo and Uruguay.

We have taken note of the conclusion from the GGE in its report to the Review Conference that there is no consensus on a draft Protocol VI. It is our view that this conclusion correctly reflects the outcome of the GGEs work.

While our delegations have worked constructively throughout the whole process, our concerns and disagreements have not yet been addressed. In our view, the present Chair's text does not adequately respond to the humanitarian problems caused by cluster munitions.

We share the fundamental humanitarian and legal concerns regarding the Chair's text as expressed by the ICRC, UN organisations and civil society. We have also heard the message from affected States and victims. We welcome all national steps in order to address the problem of cluster munitions by states not yet parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. We also encourage them to accede to the Convention on Cluster Munitions as soon as possible.

We are concerned that this draft protocol might be used to take steps in the wrong direction. This process clearly risks undermining the CCW and diminishing its relevance as an instrument of IHL. We look forward to see this Conference work hard in order to fully abide to existing IHL and fundamental rights and to promote the further strengthening of International Humanitarian Law.