



# **7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions**

Statement By

HE. Mr. Ravinatha Aryasinha

Ambassador / Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka

4-6 September 2017

The Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations and Other International  
Organizations in Geneva



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**Statement by the Sri Lanka Delegation**

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Sri Lanka delegation, let me congratulate you on your appointment to preside over this Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. I assure you my delegation's fullest support and cooperation.

Mr. President,

Sri Lanka fully recognizes the widespread and indiscriminate nature of the harm caused by cluster munitions, and their capacity to remain dangerous, kill and maim civilians long after conflict has ended. We consider the Convention on Cluster Munitions as an important instrument that seeks to complement the international legal framework on disarmament. The Convention embodies the concept of humanitarian disarmament, according highest priority on the protection of civilians.

With the end of the conflict in Sri Lanka and the establishment of a National Unity Government in 2015, the Government and the people of Sri Lanka are fully conscious that an opportunity has presented itself in the form of re-democratization, good governance and transparency, which needs to be availed of fully in taking decisions that will bring benefits first and foremost to the people of the country. Re-emphasizing our humanitarian disarmament priorities and stabilization of peace and security, form key elements in this regard.

Sri Lanka has consistently maintained that cluster munitions were never used by Sri Lanka's security forces during the conflict, and that they will never be used in the future. Sri Lanka has also participated at the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> meetings of States Parties to the Convention since 2012, as well as at its first Review Conference held in Croatia in 2015, reaffirming the commitment to advancing the process of humanitarian disarmament.

With a view to reiterating and actualizing this commitment of non-use of cluster munitions, we are pleased to note that, in consultation with stakeholders, agreement has been reached, in principle, for Sri Lanka to accede to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Internal processes pertaining to requirements necessary for giving effect to the provisions of the Convention are currently under discussion, and once that process is completed, the Government of Sri Lanka hopes to deposit the instrument of accession to the CCM in the very near future.

Thank you, Mr. President.