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Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Sweden

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Fourth Review Conference of States Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons

Main Committee II

Statement by Sweden

Mr Chairman,

Let me begin by congratulating you, Ambassador, on your nomination as Chairman of this Committee and by pledging the support and cooperation of the Swedish delegation in your endeavours.

I would like to take this opportunity to comment on the prospects of a CCW Draft Protocol on Cluster Munitions.

Sweden is a signatory to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, and we are now in the process of ratifying this convention. As a State Party to the Convention, Sweden intends to work towards making its norms universally accepted.

At the same time, we fully support the efforts to agree on a protocol on cluster munitions in the CCW. These two tracks are, in our view, not contradictory. A state party to these two international instruments would be bound by the strictest regulations of both.

Most of all, by introducing new restrictions and prohibitions to states outside the CCM, a significant humanitarian effect can be achieved. This is a key consideration for Sweden. Also, it might serve as a stepping stone for states towards also joining the CCM.

We recognize the Chair's draft as the basis for our negotiations, and we are prepared to work constructively for improvements of the text. Among other things, we wish to see strong provisions on transfers, since such provisions would prevent proliferation and use of cluster munitions. Also, we believe the length of the deferral period would merit further consideration. We would like to underline the importance of an effective endeavour clause. It would assure us that the protocol remains dynamic and forward-looking, and so has the necessary potential to adjust to circumstances – not least technical developments - in our efforts to reduce the negative humanitarian consequences of cluster munitions.

Mr Chairman,

Sweden is prepared to contribute to the objective of reaching final agreement on a protocol on cluster munitions within the CCW, hopefully during this review conference. The aim must be to create a protocol having the best possible effect in humanitarian terms and, at the same time, enjoying the broadest possible support, including from the major possessor states.