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Delegation of Belgium

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF BELGIUM AT THE MEETING OF THE
OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

Vienna, 22 September 2010

**Regarding the official announcement of the final destruction of
the stock of cluster munitions by the Belgium army**

Mr. Chairperson,

The total destruction of the Belgian army's stock of cluster munitions was completed at the beginning of August. Belgium thus becomes one of the first States Parties to have fulfilled its destruction obligation as envisaged by the Oslo Convention on Cluster Munitions, and to have done so well within the eight-year deadline provided by the Convention, which entered into force on 1 August 2010.

This accomplishment shows Belgium's firm commitment to the implementation of the Convention – a commitment strengthened by active involvement in the universalization of the Convention and in the elaboration of a reporting format for transparency measures.

In addition, Belgium was the first country in the world to enact, on 18 May 2006, a national law prohibiting cluster munitions.

Belgium encourages participating States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Oslo Convention. Belgium attaches great importance to this disarmament treaty, and urges broad participation in the First Meeting of States Parties, to be held in Vientiane, Laos, in November 2010.

Mr. Chairperson,

I ask that you annex the text of this statement to the journal of this meeting.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.