

EC-103 New Zealand intervention under agenda Item 12.6 OPCW engagement with Civil Society

Mr Chairperson,

As it is the **first time we speak this conference**, congratulations on your appointment as Chairperson of the Executive Council. You can count on Aotearoa New Zealand's cooperation and support.

Aotearoa New Zealand **thanks Germany for this working paper on engagement with civil society**. We wish to co-sponsor this initiative.

We too think a discussion among interested State Parties is a positive step forward and we're keen to see the momentum from the Review Conference continue on this issue – as well on as others such a tenure policy and geographical representation.

As we have said in the past, we need the expertise, perspective and experience of NGOs in the room. They can help ensure our work is robust and responds to the reality around us. We think it'll be worthwhile taking a stock of what the organisation's engagement with civil society looks like at the moment, and having a meaningful discussion on how we can lift this engagement in order to deliver on the goals for which we all hold dear.

We support the proposed way forward by way of modalities.

So our thanks Germany. We look forward to this discussion over the coming months.

We ask this statement be published on catalyst and the OPCW external server as an official document of this session.