

**SEVENTH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES  
TO THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS (CCM)  
SEPTEMBER 4-6, 2017 – GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

OPENING STATEMENT FOR DELIVERY  
DURING UNIVERSALIZATION THEMATIC

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

As this is my first time taking the floor, on behalf of the Canadian delegation, I would like to express our appreciation to Germany for the manner in which you've prepared the work of this 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties and for your efforts in support of this Convention over the past year, including the promotion of its universalization and the "Country Coalitions" initiative. We are also pleased to see the continuation of the tradition of assessing the Convention's progress with implementation of the Dubrovnik Action Plan, which is a valuable contribution to transparency and accountability within the Convention. Please be assured of the full support of my delegation.

The Convention on Cluster Munitions represents a major advancement of international humanitarian law (IHL), and, in particular, a significant development in the protection of civilians from the effects of armed conflict.

It builds upon the strong tradition of other IHL instruments that address the humanitarian impact of the use of mines and explosive weapons, notably the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention as well as Protocol V and Amended Protocol II to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

Mr. President,

Canada views the Convention on Cluster Munitions as an important instrument to reduce the devastating impact that these weapons can have on civilians.

Canada is pleased to have ratified the CCM in 2015 and, this year, to take part in our third meeting as a State Party. We are firmly committed to the Convention's goal of putting an end for all time to the human suffering and casualties caused by cluster munitions.

To demonstrate that commitment, Canada destroyed all of its stockpiles of cluster munitions even before it became a State Party, a process completed in 2014. It has not retained any cluster munitions for purposes permitted by the Convention.

With respect to funding, Canada remains strongly committed to addressing the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions and landmines, having contributed \$17.55 million to mine action in fiscal year 2016-2017 and \$220 million overall to such efforts over the last decade.

We provide funding for mine action in Afghanistan, Colombia, Iraq, Sri Lanka, and Ukraine, and in past years this has also included clearance of cluster munitions remnants in Lebanon, Vietnam, Cambodia, South Sudan and Lao PDR.

Canada also understands the value of complying with our reporting obligations and to do so transparently. We recognize the importance of reporting as a means to promote cooperation; monitor progress; identify needs; share experiences and best practices; and we call on all States Parties to the CCM to increase transparency by fulfilling their obligations.

Mr. President,

Lastly, and most importantly, we will continue to advocate for compliance and encourage universalization of the Convention.

The universalization of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) is a goal of fundamental importance to addressing the humanitarian problems caused by cluster munitions.

Let me please, Mr. President, take this opportunity to congratulate Madagascar and Benin for acceding to the Convention, and Mozambique for completing clearance of cluster munitions remnants, since the conclusion of our meeting in Geneva last year.

As we welcome these new States to the CCM family, we must also recognize that much work still needs to be done to achieve universalization of the Convention.

Many States, including significant users and producers of cluster munitions, are not yet Parties to the CCM. We call on all States and these non-Party States in particular, to join the Convention, cease to use these weapons and destroy their stockpiles. We would also stress that these States already have a legal obligation, during armed conflicts, to refrain from indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks with any weapon.

Mr. President, as a State that played an important role in negotiating the language of Article 21, which calls for the universalization of this Convention and also provides for interoperability with States outside the Convention, Canada recognizes that we have a special responsibility to work towards the full universalization of the CCM.

As such, in 2016 we demarched all States outside of the Convention with whom we operate militarily to remind them of our responsibilities under the Convention and to call upon them to join the CCM. We have also demarched all other non-Party States to reinforce the importance of this Convention and to do our best to promote its universalization. We intend to continue our universalization efforts in the coming year, and we would welcome the opportunity to work with other States Parties on this.

Universalization of this Convention remains the best, and indeed, only way to end all use of cluster munitions and Canada remains committed to doing its part to achieve this important goal.

Thank you.