

**9th Meeting of the States Parties of the Convention on Cluster Munitions  
September 2-4, 2019**

**Topic: Universalization**

**When: Monday, 2 September 2019, 10:00-13:00**

**Where: Palais des Nations**

**Statement on Universalization by Canada**

Thank you Mr. President,

On behalf of the Canadian delegation, I would like to express our appreciation to Sri Lanka for the manner in which you have prepared the work of this 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties and for your efforts in support of this Convention over the past year.

Mr. President,

We would like to congratulate The Gambia and The Philippines for their accession to the Convention during the past year.

Regrettably, only 12 out of 27 States affected by cluster munition remnants are States Parties to the CCM, and we know that many other states, including significant users and producers of cluster munitions are also not yet States Parties to the Convention. We call on all States to join the Convention, cease to use these weapons and destroy their stockpiles. We would also stress that non-Party states already have a legal obligation, during armed conflicts, to refrain from indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks with any weapon, including cluster munitions.

Canada condemns the continued use of cluster munitions in Syria. As the conflict in this country draws on, the indiscriminate effects and human suffering caused by the use of cluster munitions are evident. Canada joins our

fellow States Parties in underlining the necessity of universalization of the Convention to end this needless suffering once and for all.

Mr. President,

Canada's commitment to universalization imposes on us a special responsibility to work towards the integral universalization of the CCM. In order to do this we must ensure that all norms of this Convention are respected, including its financial rules. Canada deeply regrets the ongoing financial issues that plague not only the CCM, but the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

As a result of these ongoing issues, Canada is disheartened to see that a fundamental element of multilateralism, multilingualism, has been limited at this meeting in order to reduce costs. Multilingualism enables communication between States Parties and ensures the respect of their cultural and linguistic diversities. Further, multilingualism ensures increased participation of all States Parties in the Convention's work, as well as better outcomes due to a more diverse involvement in decision-making.

We call on all States Parties to respect their financial obligations to the CCM, so that these unfortunate circumstances, which are detrimental to our work, do not continue in the future.

Mr. President,

Universalization of this Convention remains the only way to end all use of cluster munitions. In pursuing this goal, it is essential to address the humanitarian consequences of the use of these weapons. Please be assured that Canada remains committed to doing its part to achieve this primary goal.

I thank you, Mr. President.