

**Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)
25-27 November 2020**

Statement by Canada – [Agenda item 8 \(a\): Universalization](#)

Mr. President,

I wish to assure you of Canada's full support during this Conference. In addition, I want to express our appreciation for your efforts to bring this meeting to fruition despite the challenges posed by COVID-19.

Mr. President,

Canada welcomes the new ratifications of the Convention in the past year by the Maldives, São Tomé and Príncipe, Niue and St. Lucia.

It is regrettable, however, that only 10 of the 25 States affected by cluster munition remnants, according to Mine Action Review, are States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, and that many other states, including significant users and producers of cluster munitions, are not yet States Parties. We call on all States to join the Convention, cease to use these weapons, and destroy their stockpiles. We note that non-Party states do have a legal obligation, during armed conflicts, to refrain from indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks with any weapon, including cluster munitions. Nonetheless, the need to universalize the Convention remains.

Canada condemns the use of cluster munitions, including the continued use in Syria, which has amply demonstrated the indiscriminate effects and human suffering caused by these munitions. We are also alarmed by reports of the use of cluster munitions in the Nagorno-Karabakh region during recent hostilities in that area.

Mr. President,

As we work towards achieving the universalization of the Convention, we believe that the following two elements can contribute to a better inclusion of all stakeholders:

- First, we need to respect the principle of multilingualism in order to ensure fair and effective participation in the Convention. Too often, we have seen delegates deprived of language services in disarmament conventions, including in this Convention. We urge States Parties to adopt in the Final Report of the Review Conference a paragraph similar to the one adopted by consensus in the Final Document of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Fourth Review Conference, to the effect that: "measures aimed at addressing the financial difficulties deriving from the outstanding assessed contributions should be without prejudice to the principle of multilingualism and should not affect, in particular, the provision of interpretation and translation in all official UN languages at the official meetings of the Convention". This is an essential step to ensure inclusivity in the Convention's activities, and therefore a factor contributing to universalization.
- Second, we believe that States Parties should commit to gender mainstreaming in the implementation of the Convention. Consequently, we welcome the actions proposed in the draft Lausanne Action Plan on gender equality. Once the Action Plan is adopted, we will need to measure our progress on these elements to ensure we are delivering on our commitments.

Thank you.