

Thank you, Mr. President.

I am speaking on behalf of the Gender Working Group, which includes the Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines, DanChurchAid, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, the HALO Trust, Humanity & Inclusion, Cluster Munition Coalition, Mine Action Review, Mines Action Canada, Mines Advisory Group, Norwegian People's Aid and SEHLAC.

The Gender Working Group appreciates the strong commitment to gender mainstreaming and diversity in the outcome documents. The Convention on Cluster Munitions has always included consideration of gender but as the Lausanne Action Plan sets out our path for the next five years, we are pleased to see Action 4 ensuring that gender and diversity considerations will be important signposts along our journey to a world without cluster munitions.

States Parties should commit to implement the Lausanne Action Plan in an inclusive, disability and age-appropriate, gender and diversity sensitive manner and to promote women and girls' full, equal and meaningful participation in the sector. Diversity factors should also be taken into consideration when implementing activities and assessing their impact. To measure success, the Lausanne Action Plan should set ambitious objectives and indicators that encourage gender and diversity sensitive and responsive programming to become standard practice and to galvanize international support for promoting women and girls' participation in mine action.

To ensure that the Lausanne Action Plan moves us towards our destination efficiently and effectively, the Second Review Conference should put in place the processes and mechanisms to ensure a qualitative assessment of the implementation of the Convention.

We thank all states which supported gender and diversity mainstreaming throughout the different preparatory meetings to this conference such as Australia, Colombia, the Philippines and others. We call on all States Parties to ensure gender and diversity are clearly mainstreamed in indicators pertaining to survey and clearance, risk education, victim assistance, and international cooperation and assistance within the Lausanne Action Plan.

As proposed during the preparatory meetings, we further urge states to nominate three gender focal points in the Coordinating Committee to assess the extent to which States Parties integrate gender and diversity considerations in their Article 7 reports and Article 4 extension requests. The three focal points should cover survey and clearance, victim assistance, and international cooperation and assistance. We appreciate the suggestion to amend the mandate of the Working Groups to consider matters related to gender and the diverse perspectives and experiences of people in affected communities in every aspect of their area of responsibility and this should be adopted by States Parties. However, there is a risk of these work falling to the wayside unless there are designated focal points to lead the work. A twin-track approach that mainstreams gender in Working Groups *and* counts on at least three gender focal points would be more effective.

The theme of this Review Conference "Saving Lives, Empowering Victims, Enabling Development" outlines the underlying motivation behind our shared goal of a world without cluster munitions. To reach this destination, we need to ensure that all can join us on the path set out by the Lausanne Action Plan.