



PHILIPPINES

INTERVENTION

First Part of the Second Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions

25-27 November 2020

Agenda Item 8(a): Universalization

Mr. President,

Since this is the first time for the Philippine Delegation to take the floor, please allow us to congratulate you on your election and thank you and the Implementation Support Unit for ensuring the continuity of the work of the States Parties to the Convention during this challenging year.

Although the Philippines ratified the Convention only in 2019, we have been active in supporting and furthering the principles and aims of this Convention from its inception, having participated actively in its negotiation.

On 18-19 June 2019 – a few days before the Convention could even enter into force in the Philippines – we hosted a regional workshop in Manila to promote the Convention. It was an opportunity for us not only to articulate the humanitarian principles of this Convention, but also to share our experience in completing our domestic ratification processes.

Since then, the Philippines has actively supported the efforts of the Presidency and all States Parties in promoting adherence to the Convention and its norms, including through its role in the Coordination Committee as coordinator for universalization.

On 29 July of this year, we again convened a virtual workshop to further promote the universalization of the Convention among ASEAN member-states. Our region is crucial in our universalization efforts because several countries there are affected by remnants of cluster munitions.

Together with Chile and with the help of the Implementation Support Unit, the Philippines created an informal working group to serve as a platform for discussions and exchange of information among States Parties that are actively involved in universalization efforts.

Mr. President,

The results of our regional efforts and our discussions with stakeholders and the informal working group inform the analysis of our collective universalization efforts that the Philippines and Chile articulated in our Ways Forward paper. The Ambassador of Chile has already articulated this analysis impeccably. Let me add by enumerating the proposed steps outlined in the said paper.

First, let us sustain and support the work of the informal working group in generating ideas, strategies, and synergies with the view to promoting adherence to the Convention and its norms.

Second, let us identify states that are most likely to take steps towards formal adherence as “low-hanging fruits,” and intensify efforts to convince them to take steps towards accession or ratification, and to assist them in doing so.

Third, let us identify regional organizations with ongoing processes that can incorporate the promotion of the Convention or its norms in its work plans, or facilitate regional discussions in this regard.

Fourth, let us identify and cultivate “CCM Champions” that can help us promote the Convention in the domestic sphere.

Fifth, let us explore the possibility of identifying prominent personalities who could be designated as Special Envoys on promoting the Convention’s universalization.

Sixth, let us continue to facilitate workshops, conduct military-to-military dialogue, and engage States not party with the view to promoting the Convention.

Seventh, let us continue to promote the country coalition mechanisms to assure States of international cooperation and assistance in their implementation of the Convention.

And eight, let us strengthen our partnership with like-minded stakeholders that could support our universalization efforts.

Mr. President,

In order to accelerate our work on universalization, the Philippines urges this Conference to adopt the Ways Forward paper to guide our work moving forward.

Thank you, Mr. President.