

Ireland intervention
CCM Intersessional – Gender and Diverse Needs

Thank you Chair.

Ireland welcomes the important advancements in the area of gender and diverse needs achieved last year, through the adoption of the Lausanne Action Plan and Lausanne Political Declaration. Their various references to gender and diverse needs, as well as the synergies paper on Gender and diversity in the CCM, submitted by the Netherlands and co-sponsored by 24 States Parties, including Ireland, are highly valuable. These tools provide us with a range of suggestions and commitments that, if pursued rigorously, will go a long way towards achieving our goal of gender and diverse needs mainstreaming throughout the CCM.

Gender, age, and other aspects, such as class, job, language, race, ethnicity, political affiliation, religion, education, sexual orientation, literacy, and physical abilities, influence exposure to cluster munitions and the risk of becoming a victim. Furthermore, each of these factors can influence a person's ability to access medical and psychological services, risk education, their long term reintegration opportunities, and the likelihood of getting employed in mine action. In this context, we are pleased that the Lausanne Action Plan, not only integrates a gender perspective - but also accounts for the wide array of diverse needs of affected populations.

The Lausanne Action Plan includes specific actions and indicators on gender and diversity through 9 actions across various work streams including survey and clearance, risk education, victim assistance, and international cooperation and assistance. It is imperative that we make every effort to implement these actions over the next 5 years, to ensure that the work of the CCM is advanced in a gender and diversity sensitive manner, responding to the specific needs of the past, present and future victims of cluster munitions.

We thank France and Namibia, as coordinators on General Status and Operation, for the draft Terms of Reference outlining the role of the new gender focal points mandated by the Second Review Conference. The TORs provide the necessary mandate to empower the focal points to help promote inclusive and effective action through mainstreaming of gender and the diversity of populations within the Convention.

Best practices and lessons learned can be drawn from the experience of past and present gender focal points of the Mine Ban Treaty. For example, Civil society will play an important role in supporting the work of the focal points and we should endeavour to include their expertise across the activities of the focal points.

My colleagues in capital are considering the draft TORs. We will be sure to submit any suggestions in writing should we have any comments.

Thanks you, Chair.