

## Statement on Universalization



*CCM Intersessional Meeting, Geneva, 16-17 May 2022*

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Cluster munitions attacks - and their remnants - pose a very real threat to people as we speak.

The Cluster Munition Coalition is alarmed by the extensive use of these nefarious weapons by Russia in the ongoing war in Ukraine, that have caused casualties and immense human suffering. We are horrified by the targeting of civilians, and we urge all parties to respect international humanitarian law. Regrettably, Ukraine has also used cluster munitions on at least one occasion.

The CMC has condemned this use and called for an immediate halt to all use of this banned weapon. The community of states committed to the rule of law, and especially the States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, have a responsibility to condemn these actions immediately, as well as any use of cluster munitions by anyone under any circumstances, and in an unqualified manner.

To date, some 36 states have spoken up against Russian use, and CMC is pleased to hear many States rearticulating their condemnation today, including Switzerland, Ireland, New Zealand, Chile, Australia, Mexico, Slovakia, the Netherlands, and Canada. We look forward to hearing from many more going on the record, and we also urge you to address the topic as part of your bilateral engagement with Russia and Ukraine. CMC continues to monitor and report on the situation and should you require additional data, please approach us at any moment or refer to our website.

The ultimate way to prevent cluster munition use and to eradicate them is by joining the Convention.

Mr President,

It has been agreed in the Lausanne Action Plan that the realization of a world free of cluster munitions is contingent upon universal adherence to the Convention. The Plan features a series of highly relevant, practical and actionable steps for the diplomatic corps to take towards this goal. We remain disturbed that the convention's membership has stagnated and no new state has joined since 2020.

We are calling for much greater, concerted and sustained diplomatic engagement and action. Under the leadership of the Coordinators on Universalization, we urge you to: arrange meetings in the capitals of states not parties; military to military dialogue; and to include other relevant stakeholders and civil society, including local CMC members.

In that spirit, the CMC arranged an outreach to Commonwealth states representatives—especially from CARICOM—in New York in April, in collaboration with the UK Presidency and with the valuable participation and input from the Universalization Coordinators, the ISU, and the ICRC. We look forward to creating other similar opportunities. Let's continue with a

coordinated universalization outreach. We look forward to continue our productive collaboration with the Universalization coordinators, the ISU and ICRC.

CMC provides financial support as well as capacity building to its member organizations for the promotion of the Convention at the national level. Our members in Azerbaijan, DRC, Nepal and Serbia are some of the recipients of our grant programme this year. If you intend to reach out to the authorities in these countries, please let us know and we can arrange a complementary or joint approach as appropriate.

Lastly, I would like to invite all to join us at our side event “Use of cluster munitions and its humanitarian consequences in Ukraine”, at which the CCM President, Ambassador Liddle, will offer opening remarks. This side event will be held online today at 13:30hrs.

Thank you.