



PHILIPPINES

STATEMENT

Convention on Cluster Munitions Second Preparatory Meeting to the Second Review Conference 4 September 2020, Palais des Nations, Geneva

On the Elements of a Political Declaration

Mister President,

On behalf of the Philippines, I wish to commend the Swiss Presidency for putting together the elements of the Lausanne Political Declaration, which serves as a useful basis for our discussions. The Philippines looks forward to constructively participating in the negotiation of this document.

The Philippines fully supports the inclusion of language that articulates the Convention's importance to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the promotion of international peace and security, human security, and human rights. The Philippines is further pleased to see references to the constructive collaboration among States Parties, international organizations, and civil society. Further, the inclusion of gender-sensitive language is likewise encouraging.

Mister President,

We believe that this document should properly highlight that victims must be at the center of our efforts to implement the Convention, and that States are in the best position to address their needs in accordance with their specific national circumstances.

It is in this context that the Philippines reiterates the need to place due emphasis on enhancing the independent national capacities of affected states and reducing their reliance on foreign technical expertise as essential elements of the concept of national ownership.

The current draft correctly points out that universalization is an urgent priority. However, this language can be enhanced, to articulate specific commitments that would further promote formal adherence to the Convention. The Ways Forward paper that the Philippines and Chile are currently preparing for the consideration of the Second Review Conference will provide specific elements in this regard, and merits mention in the Political Declaration.

Mister President,

The issue of recent and ongoing use of cluster munitions is a critical element. In this regard, the Philippines supports the inclusion of expressions of concern regarding the use of cluster munitions in any part of the world not only by States but also by armed non-state actors. We will be actively engaged in discussions on a constructive language in this regard.

Thank you, Mister President.

