



PHILIPPINES

STATEMENT

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

On the Informal Draft of the Lausanne Action Plan

Mister President,

I join the other delegations in congratulating you on the circulation of this Informal Draft of the Lausanne Action Plan. This provides a good basis of our discussions moving forward.

In particular, the Philippines commends the Swiss Presidency for putting together cross-cutting guiding principles and actions, and for properly reflecting the interface between the objectives of the Convention and the Sustainable Development Goals.

To further enhance this draft, the Philippines wishes to submit the following comments:

First, there could be proper emphasis on national ownership referring to the aspiration of all affected states to achieve fully independent national capacities and reduced reliance on foreign technical expertise. This can be reflected in Action No. 1 under the section on “guiding principles and action.”

This principle must be recognized as a cornerstone of international cooperation and assistance. The chapeau of this section must contain reference to independent national capacities and reduced reliance on foreign technical expertise, and indicators under Action No. 40 should include transfer of technical expertise to local specialists.

Second, it may be necessary to explore the possibility of developing indicators under each action point that go beyond mere numbers. For instance, injecting the gender lens in the work of the Convention go beyond mere parity in representation. Under Action No. 4, for instance, it might be worthwhile to consider the following indicators: The creation of an informal working group on gender issues and the substantive recommendations of the said working group, which could then feed into the substantive work program of the Meetings of States Parties.

Finally, on universalization. The draft presents an accurate assessment of the state of the promotion of adherence to the Convention and its norms, which is one of the most pressing challenges the Convention faces today.

In support of the Presidency, the Philippines and Chile, in our capacity as coordinators for universalization, are currently working on a Ways Forward paper that outlines in detail both the challenges to the Convention's universalization, along with practical steps that States Parties could undertake to achieve our universalization goals in the next five years.

These steps are drawn from the result of our consultation with stakeholders, including those that are part of the Informal Working Group that we created in June. They also incorporate the results of the discussions emanating from the webinar that the Philippines organized in July, which brought together high-level military and defense ministry officials from all ten ASEAN Member States, including a ministerial-level official.

The Ways Forward paper will be circulated among States Parties and other stakeholders in due course. It will then be submitted to the Second Review Conference. The Philippines, together with Chile, proposes that the paper be (annexed to the Action Plan, and then) referred to in the section on universalization. The Philippines, together with Chile, is willing to assist the Presidency in finding the appropriate language in this regard.

Thank you, Mister President.