

Second Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)
Agenda item 8. (j) Other matters important for achieving the aims of the Convention.

Joint Statement on Multilingualism in the CCM

The following statement is delivered on behalf of Belgium, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Iraq, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Spain and Uruguay.

Mr. President,

In order to ensure fair and effective participation in the Convention, it is essential to respect the principle of multilingualism. Too often, we have seen delegates deprived of language services in disarmament conventions, including in this Convention. We therefore respectfully request to include in the Second Review Conference Final Report a paragraph similar to the one adopted by consensus in the Final Document of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Fourth Review Conference, indicating that “measures aimed at addressing the financial difficulties deriving from the outstanding assessed contributions should be without prejudice to the principle of multilingualism and should not affect, in particular, the provision of interpretation and translation in all official UN languages at the official meetings of the Convention”.

Thank you.