



IRELAND

Second Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster
Munitions

25-27 November 2020

International Cooperation and Assistance

Statement by Ireland

Mr. Jamie Walsh, Deputy Permanent Representative to the
Conference on Disarmament

President,

Ireland aligns itself with the statement of the European Union and I would like to deliver the following remarks in my national capacity.

Since this is my first time taking the floor, allow me to congratulate you, Ambassador Baumann, on your assumption of the Presidency of this Second Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and let me assure you of Ireland's full support.

The organisation of a Review Conference is always challenging, but the pandemic has brought an unprecedented level of disruption. I commend you, your team, and the Implementation Support Unit for guiding us through the preparatory process, and for ensuring that we are able to begin the first part of the Review Conference in this virtual format.

I would also like to welcome the newest States Parties to the Convention - Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Niue, St. Lucia and Maldives– and look forward to working with you in the years ahead. I would also like to congratulate Montenegro and Croatia for completing the clearance of all cluster munitions remnants on your territories, and commend the ongoing clearance efforts of other affected states.

President,

Ireland has a deep association with the CCM. We are now twelve years on from the adoption of the CCM in Dublin and ten years on from its entry into force. In that time the Convention has established itself as a core part of the international disarmament framework and a critical mechanism for the protection of civilians in conflict. The international norm against the use of cluster munitions is now well established and continues to grow. Efforts towards clearance of

cluster munition remnants, stockpile destruction, victim assistance and survivor engagement have expanded considerably. While we have not quite met the target set by the Dubrovnik Action plan, efforts to universalise the convention have continued, with 110 States Parties to what is still a comparatively young treaty. It's a considerable achievement that we now have more States Parties to the CCM than States that adopted the Convention in Dublin in 2008.

President,

Ireland has consistently emphasised the clear links between humanitarian de-mining, the clearance of unexploded ordnance, and sustainable development. Through providing international cooperation and assistance we not only reduce the risks posed to civilians but open up socio-economic opportunities.

Ireland's cooperation and assistance programmes for humanitarian demining are directly linked to Ireland's commitments under the Convention on Cluster Munitions, the APLC, as well as the CCW. It is essential that States Parties acknowledge the importance and benefit of identifying synergies in the implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and other humanitarian disarmament instruments. Promoting efforts that enhance better coordination on victim assistance and international cooperation with other disarmament conventions, can contribute to the overall strengthening of disarmament instruments, and can ease implementation at the national level.

International cooperation and assistance is essential to ensure the humanitarian objectives of the Treaty are met. Since 2006, Ireland has provided more than €46 million in funding for humanitarian demining, and are currently committed to a €5.5 million 3 year mine-action

programme. Through this work we support clearance, risk education, and community engagement in Afghanistan, Colombia, Somalia and South Sudan. Through a separate programme based out of our Embassy in Hanoi, we have been supporting clearance efforts across South East Asia since 1998.

The work of the Implementation Support Unit is also absolutely critical to the smooth functioning of the Convention. In that regard, Ireland is proud to continue its support of the vital work of the ISU, contributing almost €50,000 to support its work over the last two years. As part of our international cooperation and assistance efforts, we also are committed to the equal participation of women and men. Ireland is pleased to support Mines Action Canada's Mine Action Fellows program, which supports capacity building for young women interested in demining activities in conflict-affected and post-conflict countries. Furthermore, we are pleased to have recently granted €80,000 to GICHD which will go toward a study analysing the humanitarian and socioeconomic impact of ERW.

President,

As we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Convention, we should also acknowledge that our work is far from complete. The recent widespread use of cluster munitions in Nagorno Karabakh is a matter of deep concern for my delegation and a reminder of the devastating humanitarian impacts these weapons can have on communities. We condemn all incidences of Cluster Munitions use by any actor and we call on all states to join the CCM as a matter of urgency.

In conclusion, Ireland wishes to acknowledge the important work and productive collaboration which exists between the Convention and the International Committee of the Red Cross, other

international organisations and civil society organisations, and in particular with those field experts who have continued their work even in the face of a global pandemic. The CCM requires our collective cooperation and continuous support. It is through these efforts that we can best protect civilians from the devastation caused by cluster munitions. This objective, which drove the initial adoption of the CCM, must be at the heart of our deliberations at this Review Conference.

Thank you.