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2nd Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions Part II, 20-21 September 2021

Agenda item 7: Reaffirming the determination to put an end to the suffering caused by cluster munitions

Mister President, Excellencies,

At the outset, let me congratulate you, Mr President, your team and the ISU for successfully guiding us throughout this difficult year, with a view to completing these proceedings. Let me also express our sincere appreciation for the consultative and transparent approach you followed in the run-up to both parts of this Conference, particularly in the elaboration of the Review Document, the Lausanne Declaration and Lausanne Action Plan.

Review conferences are key opportunities to take stock of the work done. The draft review document you presented provides a clear and comprehensive overview of the significant progress we have reached within the Convention. It is also a powerful reminder, however, that many challenges remain, and that we cannot afford to decrease our efforts and determination even if the operational environment becomes more complex and the financial environment more competitive.

But we are not here only to look back. We are also here, perhaps more importantly, to remind ourselves of why we are here at all, and to lay the foundations for our work in the next five years. An undiminished political commitment against the use of cluster munitions – enshrined in the Lausanne Declaration – and a clear road ahead – as laid out in the Lausanne Action Plan – are the key pillars to guide our work and bring us closer to completion.

The commitments made through the actions in the Lausanne Action Plan are ambitious, yet realistic, with the potential to have a significant and lasting impact on affected people and communities.

The GICHD welcomes and supports the Convention's stronger orientation towards results, as embodied in the incorporation of measurable actions and indicators in the plan. These will allow us to measure impacts, identify gaps, as well as lessons learned, working as a framework to gauge progress, identify needs for adaptation and, in short, to lead to better performance. For this system to be effective, utmost attention will have to be placed on properly reporting our activities.

Mr. President,

The GICHD greatly welcomes the Convention's stronger commitment to risk education through the creation in the Action Plan of Chapter 6, specifically dedicated to this key obligation.

Through LAP actions 27 to 30, States Parties recognize the vital role of risk education interventions in protecting civilians at risk, while clearance operations continue to ensure that the threat is definitively eliminated. For maximum effectiveness, such interventions should take account of the different vulnerabilities, roles and needs of women, girls, boys and men.

In this regard, the GICHD - with the support of many partner organizations and the EORE Advisory Group - recently launched an online training module on the fundamentals of risk education. We truly hope that this tool will serve to increase understanding of this topic and to support effective implementation of the CCM.

Mr President,

We should never forget the noble goal of this Convention, ending the suffering caused by cluster munitions on civilians around the globe. Through this Conference, our community has the opportunity to provide an enabling framework within which our work will be managed and implemented, in order to move decisively toward that goal over the next five years.

The GICHD looks forward to continuing cooperation with partners at all levels around the globe, in order to play its part in this collective endeavour.

Thank you.