



Ministry for Foreign Affairs

**Second Review Conference of States Parties to the
Convention on Cluster Munitions
Second Part**

Geneva, 20-21 September 2021

*Reaffirming the determination to put an end to the suffering caused by
cluster munitions*

Statement by Sweden

Mr President,

Sweden fully aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. Allow me to make a few additional remarks in my national capacity.

On behalf of the Swedish delegation, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Swiss presidency and all those involved in the preparation of this second part of the Review Conference. It is a pleasure to be able to meet so many colleagues here in Geneva and we sincerely hope that the conditions soon allow us to meet more regularly. We also commend the staff of the ISU for their excellent work during this challenging time.

A Review Conference is a time to take stock of where we stand as States Parties, and where we must go in order to meet the objectives set out for us in the Convention. Sweden has taken an active part in the work of the Convention ever since it was first established, and we fully share the goals of the Convention in banning this inhumane weapon. For the ban to become effective, the world's largest manufacturers and users of cluster munitions must also join the Convention. Realizing full universalization remains the biggest challenge for us as States Parties.

Now more than ever, we must stand together to call on others to join, and to ensure the continued and effective implementation of the Convention. In the shadow of the pandemic, the global security environment has continued to

deteriorate, with increasing polarization and a severe lack of trust between countries. While imperilled, we have been strengthened in our conviction that multilateralism remains our primary chance to address common challenges and to ensure international peace and security.

Like others, we are deeply concerned about reports on the use of cluster munitions in different parts of the world. Sweden joins those voicing concern about reports of the use of cluster munitions affecting civilian populations. Our Foreign Minister has stated that such use of cluster munitions is unacceptable and has called on all actors to strictly observe International Humanitarian Law.

When gazing forward, we should continue to strive for synergies between the Convention on Cluster munitions, the Anti-Personnel Mine-Ban Convention and other international initiatives in the field of disarmament, including the UN Disarmament Agenda. Furthermore, as a government with a feminist foreign policy, it is Sweden's solid conviction that applying a gender perspective in all aspects of arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament will help improve the functioning of our collective work and strengthen international peace and security. This is particularly relevant in the context of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, and Sweden wishes to see continued dedicated efforts to mainstream gender aspects within the Convention.

Over the past decade, Sweden has contributed over 80 million EUR to mine action worldwide. Our support, administered mainly by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), has gone to mine action in its wider sense – to clear all Explosive Remnants of War. Actions for mine clearance, as well as those specifically targeting cluster munitions, not only contribute to establishing international peace and security, but also to further progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

To conclude, I would like to assure you, Mr. President, as well as all States Parties and partners in the UN system and in civil society, of our continued support for this Convention and for its implementation.

Thank you.