

Canada general statement:

Thank you Mr. President,

On behalf of the Canadian delegation, I would like to express our appreciation to you for the manner in which you have prepared the work of this 10th Meeting of States Parties and for your efforts in support of this Convention over the past year.

Mr. President,

Canada is fully supportive of the importance that has been placed on universalization as a priority for this chair. Regrettably, less than half of States affected by cluster munition remnants are States Parties to the CCM, and we know that many other states, including significant users and producers of cluster munitions are also not yet States Parties to the Convention. Universalization of this Convention remains the best, and indeed, the only way to end all use of cluster munitions, and it is essential to addressing the humanitarian consequences of their use

International humanitarian law prohibits the indiscriminate use of any weapon, including cluster munitions, and prohibits the deliberate targeting of civilians.

We call on all States to join the Convention, cease to use these weapons and destroy their stockpiles. We would also stress that non-Party states already have a legal obligation, during armed conflicts, to refrain from indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks with any weapon, including cluster munitions.

Canada condemns the continued use of cluster munitions in multiple regions including most recently in the conflict in Ukraine.

Indeed, we strongly condemn the unprovoked invasion of Ukraine by Russia. The attack on Ukraine is not only in complete contravention of international law, particularly the UN charter and has undermined the international rules based order.

We are deeply concerned by continued allegations of the use of cluster munitions by Russia in Ukraine, including in populated areas, resulting in civilian casualties.

As we have heard from the ICRC, The Cluster Munitions Monitor Report for 2022 cited the use of cluster munitions by Russia has: “caused predictable and lasting harm to hundreds of Ukrainian civilians”. Hundreds of Russian cluster munition attacks have been documented, reported, or alleged in at least 10 of Ukraine’s 24 regions. Preliminary data shows at least 689 civilian casualties from cluster munition attacks in Ukraine between February and July 2022.

It is all our collective responsibility to speak out strongly against these aggressions and ensure the credibility of this Convention. Ukraine can count on Canada’s full support for its territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Mr. President,

We are concerned by the alarming trend of non compliance on our collective obligation to submit our annual reports. We call on all parties to submit their annual reports on time.

Canada also deeply regrets the ongoing financial issues that plague not only the CCM, but the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. However we remain hopeful that a solution can be found.

Gender mainstreaming within the Convention is vital from our perspective and we welcome the outstanding work done in this area along with the large number of actions related to gender within the LAP.

Finally, Canada strongly supports and encourages the participation of a large number of NGOs and members of international organizations. Their valued participation offers all of us important contributions to this convention.

Thank you.