

Canada statement on International Assistance:

Thank you Mr. President,

My delegation would also like to share our appreciation of Germany and Montenegro for their excellent work in leading the efforts on international assistance within the CCM.

Canada remains a strong supporter of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and all its articles, and I would like to provide now an update on Canada's current engagements in the area of international cooperation (or article 6 of the Convention):

Mr. President,

Our operational funding for 2020 to 2024 includes a total of more than \$55 million Canadian dollars for projects related to mine action and disposal of remenance of war in the following countries:

- o Afghanistan;
- o Armenia;
- o Azerbaijan;
- o Burkina Faso;
- o Cambodia;
- o Colombia;
- o Iraq;
- o Lao PDR;
- o Sri Lanka;
- o Syria;
- o Ukraine; and
- o Mali

Our support targets a number of areas related to Mine Action and combating cluster munitions including clearance, mine risk education and community engagement.

Specifically on Ukraine, Immediately following the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, Canada provided \$2M to the HALO Trust to support emergency explosive ordnance risk education, hazard mapping, and conducting clearance of ERW in Ukraine where conditions allow. Additionally, Canada provided demining bomb suits and our ministry of defence has provided demining equipment to the Government of Ukraine.

As Canada looks to scale up its support to mine action in Ukraine, our Prime Minister has recently announced an additional 15 M for mine action in Ukraine.

In addition to these commitments, Canada has committed more than \$7 million from 2018 to 2024 to provide institutional support to the ICBL and to the GICHD), which includes support to the implementation support units of both the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) and the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). This also includes a contribution of \$40,000 per year from 2022 to 2024 to the Sponsorship Program of the APMBC.

Mr. President,

We strongly encourage all States Parties to contribute to the fight against cluster munitions, as they are able to, including to the work of the Implementation Support Unit of the Convention, which is critical to the functioning of this convention.

Finally, we call once again on all states to complete their article 7 reporting requirements on time as this is the best way to facilitate the coordination of international assistance.
Thank you.