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## Statement by Maysa Hajjaj, Advisor, Gender and Diversity, GICHD

10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions,

Agenda item 10(i) Gender mainstreaming, Thursday 1 September 2022

Thank you (Mister/Madam) Chair,

The GICHD supports the statement by the Gender and Diversity Working Group, of which it is an active and committed member and would like to add a few remarks on this important agenda item.

Last year's Review Conference and resulting Lausanne Action Plan took significant steps towards concretizing a stronger and more meaningful commitment to the integration of gender and diverse needs of populations within the Convention.

We thank the Coordinators on General Status and Operation of the Convention, France and Namibia, in their role as Gender Focal Points of the Convention, for the update on progress made in complying with the gender and diversity related provisions articulated in the LAP. It is very encouraging to hear examples, during this plenary session, as well as during the side event 'Gender and diversity in the implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions: Updates on progress' that took place earlier today.

This demonstrates that there is increasing evidence that mine action activities that mainstream gender and diversity and promote gender equality and inclusion are having a positive impact with transformational potential.

We would also like to commend France and Namibia for the draft terms of reference that was presented today. The development and eventual adoption of such a ToR is yet another strong indication of how gender and diversity continue to be prioritized in our sector.

However, it is evident that work remains to be done, particularly in terms of ensuring consistent reporting on the LAP with regards to gender and diversity mainstreaming by including information on these dimensions across all relevant sections of the annual Article 7 reports.

Furthermore, it cannot be denied that the participation of women of diverse backgrounds and identities in Convention meetings continues to be disappointingly low and that we need to identify barriers and make arrangements to ensure that individuals from underrepresented groups can meaningfully participate.

We continue to encourage all States Parties to uphold gender and diversity mainstreaming commitments in the LAP, including by:

- Implementing activities in an inclusive manner (Action 4);
- Integrating gender and diversity considerations in survey and clearance activities (Action 23);
- Implementing context-specific, tailor-made risk education interventions (Action 28);
- Collecting and analyzing gender, age and disability disaggregated contamination and casualty data (Actions 29 and 31). This would involve moving beyond data collection by sex to encompass individuals of different gender identities and expressions, and ensure that disaggregated data is used effectively to inform cluster munition remnant programmes; and
- Providing assistance to victims in a non-discriminatory, gender-sensitive, disability and age-sensitive manner, and ensuring their inclusion and meaningful participation in the work of the Convention and relevant laws and policies (Action 34 and 36).

Building on this, the GICHD very much welcomes the work conducted on the current state of gender and diversity in the CCM by the International Gender Champions Disarmament Impact Group, together with the GICHD and UNIDIR. This has resulted in a factsheet which identifies entry-points and areas for action on gender and diversity mainstreaming in line with the CCM and the Lausanne Action Plan.

(Mister/Madam) Chair,

In conclusion, as stated earlier, the GICHD believes that our community has clear commitments and goals on gender and diversity. We now need to focus on implementation and results.

Thank you.