

CMC Statement on Universalization
CCM 10th MSP 30 August – 2 September 2022



Thank you, Mr. President,

The Cluster Munition Coalition is appalled by the extensive use of cluster munitions by Russia in the ongoing war in Ukraine. Russia has used both old stocks of cluster munitions and newly developed ones, causing hundreds of civilian casualties and damaging homes, hospitals and schools. Ukraine appears to have also used cluster munitions at least three times on its own territory.

The CMC condemns the use of cluster munitions by any actor under any circumstances. We call for an immediate halt to all use of this banned weapon.

States committed to the rule of law, and especially the States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, have a responsibility to condemn these actions, immediately and in an unqualified manner. To date, more than 40 states have spoken up by way of national or joint statements, including at this year's CCM Intersessionals. We are pleased to have heard many States reiterating their condemnation today, including Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Germany, Holy See, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Montenegro, Netherlands, Philippines, Sweden, Turkey, and others.

We look forward to hearing from many more going on the record, and we also urge you to address the topic as part of your bilateral engagement with Russia and Ukraine.

Mr. President,

According to the Cluster Munition Monitor 2022, there is no evidence that cluster munitions, as defined by the Convention, have been transferred by third parties to Ukraine in 2022.

This lack of cluster munition transfers to Ukraine reflects how three-quarters of NATO member states have banned these weapons. It also shows how others that have not banned cluster munitions are nonetheless taking steps to align their policies and adapt their military practices to adhere with the Convention's prohibitions, including on assisting with any banned activities.

This speaks to the strength and relevance of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Mr. President,

It has been agreed in the Lausanne Action Plan that the realization of a world free of cluster munitions requires universal adherence to the Convention. We are concerned over the lack of tangible progress on this front; indeed since 2020 not a single state has joined.

The Lausanne Action Plan features a series of relevant, practical and actionable steps for states to take towards this goal. Therefore, we are calling for increased, concerted and sustained diplomatic engagement. Under the leadership of the Coordinators on Universalization, we urge States Parties to arrange meetings in the capitals of states not parties; to conduct military to military dialogue; and to include civil society in their efforts, including local CMC members.

Today universalization outreach is even more timely and urgent than ever, as we witness the ongoing use and devastation caused by cluster munitions in Ukraine.

Likewise, we encourage Signatories Angola, the Central African Republic, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Haiti, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda to expedite their ratification process as a priority.

In this sense we welcome the encouraging news presented today by Haiti, Nigeria and South Sudan.

We applaud the call made by France for a Europe free of cluster munitions.

The informal intersessional meeting is a useful tool to engage Signatories and non-Signatories in the exchanges of information on progress and challenges of the Convention, and to promote further universalization. We are really pleased that such meeting was held this year, and we hope this 10MSP decides to continue to hold intersessional meetings under this Convention annually, possibly back to back with the intersessional meetings of the Mine Ban Treaty.

Since the 2008 adoption of the Convention, the Cluster Munition Coalition has been undertaking universalization outreach in both Geneva and New York, as well as hand in hand with national member organizations at the national level through the Investing in Action Programme, promoting the Convention on Cluster Munitions particularly in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

It has been an honor to collaborate with the CCM MSP President Ambassador Liddle, the Universalization coordinators Philippines and Spain, ICRC and the CCM ISU in universalization outreach, and we stand ready to collaborate with Iraq as upcoming CCM President in its efforts to bring more states on board.

Lastly, I would like to invite all to join us at our side event “Sharing views and experiences on civil society actions against cluster munitions and ERW and their humanitarian impact: the cases of Lao PDR, Iraq and Ukraine” which will be held online on Friday 2nd, at 13:30h.

Thank you.