

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 11th Meeting of States Parties and for your efforts in support of this Convention over the past year, including the workshops and side events described earlier. We would also like to congratulate Pamela Moraga for assuming the role of Director of the ISU.

I would start off by saying that like many in the room, Canada is bound by our obligations to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. This includes speaking out publically against the use of cluster munitions. Canada is proud to have been one of the countries that led on the banning of cluster munitions around the world and we continue to believe that they should not be used. We are committed to ending the suffering and long-lasting impacts caused by these weapons, particularly on civilians.

We welcome Nigeria and South Sudan to the Convention and will have more to say on universalization later this week.

We know that International Humanitarian Law prohibits the indiscriminate use of any weapon, including cluster munitions, and prohibits the deliberate targeting of civilians. Canada is very concerned by the recent Monitor Report citing that 1,172 people were killed and injured by cluster munitions last year. A sobering number which is also the highest number of victims recorded since the report was first published in 2010.

Canada is concerned by the continued use of cluster munitions in multiple regions around the world. Indeed the 2023 cluster munition monitor cites Myanmar, Syria and Ukraine as countries where Cluster Munitions were used in 2022.

We would stress that states not party to the Convention are legally obligated to respect the principles enshrined in IHL during armed conflict, and this applies to any weapon, including cluster munitions.

We discourage all States not party to this Convention from engaging in the transfer, stockpiling, and use of cluster munitions.

Mr. President,

Canada holds transparency as a crucial element in banning cluster munitions, and we remain concerned by the 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 regrets the ongoing financial issues that jeopardize not only the CCM, but the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, the Arms Trade Treaty, and the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. However, we remain hopeful that a solution can be found, and that assessed contributions be paid by all States Parties in full and on time.

Mr. President,

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 Lausanne Action Plan. We will have more to say on gender mainstreaming later this week.

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

Thank you.