

On International Cooperation:

Thank you Mr. President,

My delegation would also like to share our appreciation to the Committee on International Cooperation and Assistance, Germany and Lebanon, for their excellent work in leading the efforts on international assistance within the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM).

Canada remains a strong supporter of the CCM and all its articles, and I would like to now provide 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 2021 to 2024 includes over \$50 million Canadian dollars for projects related to the disposal of explosive remnants of war, including landmines and cluster munitions, in the following countries:

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

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

Mr. President,

In Ukraine, Canada has been supporting humanitarian mine action efforts since 2016 through a range of experienced partners. Canada strongly condemns in the strongest of terms Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine and once again calls upon the Russian Federation to withdrawal from the Ukrainian sovereign territory. Since the Russian Federation's full-scale illegal invasion in February 2022, Canada has committed over \$35 million to support humanitarian mine action in Ukraine. This programming includes the provision of demining and explosive ordnance equipment and blast suits, emergency explosive ordnance risk education, hazard mapping, and clearance.

Mr. President,

In addition to these commitments, Canada has committed more than \$7 million in 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 CCM.

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.

Thank you.