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## Statement by the GICHD

### Gender mainstreaming (item 10(a) of the provisional agenda)

#### Convention on Cluster Munitions, Eleventh Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 11-14 September 2023

Mr. President, colleagues,

Let me start by expressing my appreciation to the Presidency for including a dedicated agenda item on gender and the diverse needs of mine affected communities in the plenary of this meeting.

The GICHD would also like to thank the Coordinators on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, Belgium and France, in their role as Gender Focal Points of the Convention for their briefing on the progress made by States Parties in the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Lausanne Action Plan.

It is encouraging to see progress towards the specific LAP actions related to gender and diversity and it is reassuring to note that there is agreement amongst the majority of signatory states on the importance of gender and diversity considerations within the Lausanne Action Plan.

We welcome that some State Parties are interested in sensitization and capacity enhancement on gender and diversity and are pleased to offer the GICHD's expertise and support in this area.

The informal Gender and Diversity Working Group, that the GICHD is an active member of, is providing support to the GFPs from both the CCM and the Mine Ban Treaty,

acknowledging that there are important synergies between these and other conventions to build on. This was highlighted in the paper titled *Gender and diversity in the Convention of Cluster Munitions: enhancing impact through synergies with other international Conventions and policies* (CCM/CONF/2021/5) submitted by the Netherlands and sponsored by 23 countries at the Second Review Conference.

Mr. President,

Since the Second Review Conference, much progress has been made; however, several challenges remain in a global context of increasing instability. With armed conflicts erupting and persisting in many parts of the world, pre-existing inequalities could be amplified, and some hard-won progress could be reversed. Widespread forced displacement further exacerbates situations in which some people face more challenges than others in exercising their rights or accessing opportunities.

Furthermore, as highlighted in a recent study conducted by the GICHD for the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre, there is room for improvement in the way we use the disaggregated data collected in the sector, as it does not consistently follow good practice on gender mainstreaming.

Finally, it is also interesting to read in the LAP progress report the number of women presiding over the convention, taking part in the Coordination Committee and included in or heading delegations. While continuing to monitor representation of women at Convention's meetings, and as beneficiaries of mine action activities, we must also take steps to ensure that people of diverse backgrounds and identities are meaningfully involved in identifying solutions to the problems posed by explosive ordnance.

To conclude, it remains imperative that moving forward we all continue to strive for the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men to be considered and to inform all areas of Convention implementation. This is essential to deliver an equitable and inclusive approach that ensures "nobody is left behind".

Thank you.