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**Video message: 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the  
Convention on Cluster Munitions**

**Geneva, 11 September 2023**

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

I wish to begin by thanking Ambassador Abdul-Karim Hashim Mostafa of Iraq for his role in stewarding the Convention at these important times.

I also wish to thank the previous Director of the Implementation Support Unit, Ms. Sheila Mweemba, for her key contribution to the implementation of the Convention and welcome the new Director Ms. Pamela Moraga.

Since the last Meeting of States Parties, cluster munitions have continued to make headlines.

The United Nations condemns the use of cluster munitions by States not Parties and calls for an immediate end to their use. The Secretary-General has been unequivocal in his call to consign these weapons to history.

The current events reinforce our collective condemnation of these weapons. Cluster munitions are indiscriminate, unreliable and inaccurate, and have lasting and devastating impact on innocent civilians long after conflicts have ended.

Too many men, women and children have already suffered death and injuries. Unexploded cluster munitions have stalled socio-economic development in affected countries, placed a strain on health-care systems and affected entire communities already traumatized by war.

Excellencies,

One way to strengthen and increase the impact of the Convention is to achieve its universality: the more States join the treaty, the stronger the resolve to reduce the risk that cluster munitions will be used in conflicts and the greater the stigma around their use and transfer.

I congratulate Nigeria and South Sudan, the Convention's newest States Parties, and I hope that the CCM community will continue to grow well beyond the current 112 States Parties.

I call on all States Parties to re-double their efforts to engage with States not parties both on a bilateral but also regional basis and encourage them to accede to the Convention.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, as Depositary of the Convention, remains committed to its universalization and full implementation.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I welcome the reported progress in the implementation of the Lausanne Action Plan: more States advanced in their plans to meet their clearance deadlines, destroyed their stockpiles, strengthened their implementation measures, and integrated the needs of

victims into their national development plans, also aligning them to the Sustainable Development Goals.

The implementation of this Convention contributes to the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals, respect for human rights, protection of the environment and compliance with international humanitarian law. It also highlights the interconnectedness of these issues and contributes to a human-centered approach to disarmament that reflects our shared determination to protect civilians during and after conflicts and to ensure their right to live in dignity and safety.

While progress has been made, challenges remain. The clearance of contaminated areas, the destruction of stockpiles and all other aspects of implementation of the Convention require sustained efforts from the international community. It is incumbent to continue to provide the necessary resources and support to affected countries, so they can effectively address the terrible legacy of cluster munitions.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Reporting is a cornerstone of transparency and a key enabler of international cooperation and assistance, allowing us to match needs with resources. I am pleased that the new reporting forms also cover voluntary submission of information on the different needs, vulnerabilities and perspectives of women, men, girls, and boys, as well as the diversity of populations, and I encourage States to make use of them. Unfortunately, in 2023, reporting has continued its declining trend and reached a 9 years low.

I urge affected States to take the lead in identifying their needs for support and fulfill their reporting obligations in a timely manner, to allow other States and stakeholders to provide the needed resources.

Working together in the spirit of partnership that has always characterized this Convention, we can achieve its full implementation, address the remaining challenges, and continue to celebrate its advancements.

We stand ready to support you in your endeavors and I wish you success in your deliberations.

I thank you very much for your attention.