



Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Eleventh Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions

Geneva, 11 September - 14 September 2023

Statement by Sweden in the General Debate

Thank you Mr President,

Let me start by thanking the Iraqi Presidency for your thorough preparation of this Eleventh Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. I can assure you of the full support from the Swedish delegation. We also commend the staff of the ISU and all others involved for their tireless efforts in preparing this meeting.

We also welcome Nigeria and South Sudan as new States Parties to this Convention.

Sweden fully aligns to the statement [to be] delivered by the European Union. Allow me to make a few additional remarks in a national capacity.

Mr President,

Sweden is deeply concerned about reports on the use of cluster munitions in different parts of the world.

Like others, we are appalled by credible reports on the use of cluster munitions by Russia affecting the civilian population in Ukraine. Sweden strongly condemns Russia's unjustifiable, unprovoked and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine. We call on Russia to

immediately cease its illegal use of force against Ukraine, and to immediately, completely and unconditionally withdraw all its troops and military equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders.

As a State Party to the Convention, Sweden condemns any use of cluster munitions by any actor. We therefore urge all actors to strictly observe International Humanitarian Law and to refrain from using this inhumane weapon.

Mr President,

For the ban on cluster munitions to become effective, it is important that the world's largest manufacturers and users of cluster munitions join the Convention. Realizing full universalization remains the biggest challenge and an important objective for us as States Parties.

We must also ensure that the Convention is fully and effectively implemented. As a recent member of the Coordination Committee, Sweden is happy to have been able to contribute to this work.

We are also grateful to the Implementation Support Unit for all their support. Therefore, let me reiterate the importance of ensuring sufficient funding for their work. This year, Sweden intends to make a voluntary contribution to the ISU, which together with our mandatory contribution to the ISU will amount to 250 000 Swedish crowns, approximately 20 000 Swiss Francs. Sweden calls on all States Parties to pay their assessed contributions to the ISU, as well as their shares of the Convention's budget, in full and on time.

Mr President,

Sweden's commitment to international cooperation and assistance remains strong. Last year, Sweden contributed with over 126 million Swedish crowns to Mine Action, including efforts specifically targeting cluster munitions. Our joint efforts remain crucial for

international peace and security, as well as for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

In response to Russia's aggression against Ukraine, we have and will continue to scale up our support to Mine Action in Ukraine. Since the full-scale invasion in 2022, Sweden has provided substantial equipment and personnel support by the Swedish Contingencies Agency through the EU's Civil Protection Mechanism and other partners. We have also adopted a strategy for Sweden's reconstruction and reform cooperation with Ukraine for the coming five-year period, which includes support to managing mines, cluster munition and other explosive ordnances. The vast contamination demands our engagement for many years to come.

On a final note, let me reiterate that it is Sweden's solid conviction that *applying* a gender perspective in all aspects of arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament will help improve the functioning of our collective work, while also strengthening international peace and security. Therefore, we look forward to working together on further mainstreaming gender and diversity aspects in the implementation of the Convention.

Thank you very much, Mr President