



UK Mission  
Geneva

**CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS  
11<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF STATES PARTIES**

**AGENDA ITEM 10a: Universalization**

**STATEMENT BY THE UNITED KINGDOM**

H.E. Mr Aidan Liddle, Permanent Representative to the Conference on  
Disarmament

Geneva, 12 September 2023

Mr President, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Firstly, we would like to commend all efforts made towards universalisation, with special thanks to the universalisation coordinators, Spain, and Malawi in their work over the last year. A world free from cluster munitions is only possible through the universalisation of the norms embedded within our Convention and by consistently promoting its intent as per action.10 of the Lausanne Action Plan.

During the period since our presidency, the United Kingdom has utilised every opportunity to promote the convention in a range of bilateral and multilateral settings. Assistance from the ISU and the universalisation coordinators in identifying a range of states to approach has resulted in positive discussions on matters of ratification as well as the overall goals of the convention. The UK has conducted universalisation outreach in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean. In particular, we are convinced of the utility for military dialogue to enable progress towards accession and we are working to facilitate further such discussions.

Earlier this year, the UK hosted a workshop on the Convention with Commonwealth states, in London, as part of our continued effort to promote the Convention. Four signatory states (Cyprus, Jamaica, Tanzania, and Uganda) and two States-not-party (Gabon and Malaysia) attended this event; as well as Nigeria who have recently completed the ratification process. The International Committee for the Red Cross, Cluster Munition Coalition and Spain as coordinator also contributed, and we thank them for this. The workshop covered potential barriers that states may be facing to achieve ratification or accession, including building support with legislatures and the need to exchange knowledge between militaries on operating without the presence of cluster munitions.

Also, during 2023, I led a UK delegation supported by the ISU on a visit to Malaysia, Indonesia, and Thailand. We were warmly received by all three States and were assured by all that there were no fundamental difficulties to any country joining the Convention. We continue to stand ready to support States in the region as they work towards joining the convention and fulfilling its obligations.

Our commitment to universalisation of our convention will endure. We stand ready to assist Mexico, as the incoming Presidency, to continue this work. Finally, I would like to express our gratitude to the ISU and coordinators, Spain and Malawi, for their assistance. The UK also thanks the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the

ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) and the Cluster Munition Coalition for continuing support to the convention. We look forward to working with everyone connected to the convention until we can achieve a global ban on the production and use of cluster munitions.

Thank you.