

**CCM 11MSP, 11 Sep – 14 Sep 2023,**  
**Geneva**

General Statement

Mr. President,

Ireland aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and delivers the following remarks in a national capacity.

At the outset, we'd like to congratulate you Ambassador [Abdul-Karim Hashim] Mostafa on assuming your role as the President of the Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) and to thank you and your team for your able leadership throughout the intersessional period. We assure you of Ireland's full support throughout this week. We would also like to extend sincere gratitude to the ISU and welcome Ms. Pamela Moraga as the new Director of the ISU, we wish you all the best as you steer the work of this important convention.

We would like to congratulate and welcome South Sudan and Nigeria as new States Parties to the Convention. Progressing towards Universalisation is a key priority of the CCM and we are pleased to see more states becoming States Parties. Though much progress has been made we must remain proactive in our efforts to increase universalisation, particularly amongst those states who retain or are directly affected by cluster munitions.

Mr. President,

Over the 15 years since the Convention's adoption in Dublin in 2008, Ireland has held a strong and unwavering commitment to the CCM. The Treaty has established itself over the years as a critical mechanism for the protection of civilians in conflict and a foundational component of the international disarmament framework. Now with a total of 112 States Parties and 12 signatories - this Convention has successfully enabled land clearance, victim support and survivor engagement, risk education and awareness, and led to State Parties reporting the destruction of 99% of their cluster munition stockpiles.

Central America becoming the world's first cluster munition-free sub-region is a momentous occasion worth celebrating and stands as a positive milestone in the implementation of this Convention. We hope their positive example can be followed by others. We also take this opportunity to congratulate

States Parties Bulgaria, Peru, and Slovakia who destroyed substantial amounts of stockpiled cluster munitions and sub munitions during 2022 and the first half of 2023.

Further, we welcome the announcement earlier today by South Africa that they have destroyed their stockpiles. Another positive achievement for the Treaty.

Regrettably Mr. President, despite these achievements, the norm established by this Convention against the use of cluster munitions and our collective goal of realising a world free of these inhumane weapons, is increasingly under threat. According to data collected by the Cluster Munition Monitor, 2022 saw the highest number of people killed and injured by cluster munitions since they began reporting in 2010 – with over 95% of casualties being civilians. This is unacceptable. Our objectives and obligations under this Convention must be protected and reinforced.

President,

Ireland is deeply concerned by the documented use of cluster munitions, including in Syria, Yemen, Libya, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and most recently in Ukraine – where we remain deeply concerned about reported breaches of IHL, including attacks on civilians and civilian objects. We are also gravely concerned by the current and future harm arising from the explosive remnants resulting from the use of cluster munitions, explosive weapons, anti-personnel mines and IEDs. These have created massive contamination and pose unacceptable and long-lasting threats to civilians, civilian infrastructure and impede humanitarian access and recovery.

Ireland reiterates our strong condemnation of the Russian Federation's unlawful aggression against Ukraine, and we will continue to do our part to support Ukraine and its people against the Russian Federation's unlawful aggression. However, Ireland maintains, in line with our Convention obligations, that cluster munitions are by nature, indiscriminate and imprecise and may result in serious breaches of IHL. We continue to discourage in every way possible the use, development, production, stockpiling and transfer of cluster munitions by all actors, and to call upon those who continue to do so, to cease now. This commitment also extends to States not party to the convention. Despite the grave humanitarian situation in Ukraine as a result of the Russian Federation's aggression, the use of cluster munitions, or facilitation of such use, must never be normalised.

President,

We would also like to call on States Parties to submit their Article 7 transparency reports as required by the Convention, noting that some States Parties are more than a decade late. Similarly, we call on

States to submit their financial contributions in full and on time. This is a matter of compliance with the objectives of the Convention, which we are all obligated to fulfil, and is therefore essential for Treaty Implementation.

Before concluding Mr. President, we would like to briefly acknowledge the steadfast work of civil society, who continue to work constructively with the international community despite the increasingly difficult circumstances they operate under. Ireland has a long history of working closely with civil society partners and providing support for humanitarian mine action programmes, focused on the clearance and destruction of landmines and ERW; the delivery of mine risk education and victim assistance; and the provision of related employment opportunities for affected communities. With this in mind, we commit to working under your leadership for a successful outcome to this MSP and we look forward to engaging across this week's Agenda.

Thank you, Mr President.