



PROGRESS REPORT BY MALAWI AND PERU IN THE UNIVERSALIZATION OF THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS (2023-2024)

Thank you, Madame President,

Good morning, excellencies, and Colleagues.

1. The universalization of the Convention is a responsibility of all States Parties under the leadership of the Presidency and the thematic coordinators. Malawi and Peru as coordinators of Universalization since the last Meeting of States Parties appreciate and commend the work and activities that have been and continue to be carried out by different States Parties in the universalization efforts as well as by the relevant civil society organisations. We call for more States to take up this responsibility of protecting humanity and safeguarding global peace and security. As coordinators, we are ready and committed to working with all States Parties and civil society in this process.

Madame President

2. Since the last MSP, there has been a few developments regarding Universalization. We regret the announcement by Lithuania of their intention to withdraw from the Convention. We remind States Parties that the Presidency put forward an offer of a constructive dialogue with that delegation in order to reverse, or at least postpone, the formalization of such decision. Indeed, the possible withdrawal will clearly undermine the work on universalization. We need to put more effort in assuring States Parties of the importance and necessity of being part of the global community working towards the ban of these

devastating weapons and promoting global peace. It is important to remember that humanitarian disarmament treaties, such as the CCM, are intended to apply during times of war and peace. Hence, the universalization coordinators reached out and engaged with Lithuania's delegation in Geneva on the issue. The coordinators urged Lithuania to reconsider this decision and consider the humanitarian and other consequences of this decision. Additionally, in partnership with the Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU), we tried to strategize on the best way to deal with this development. We will continue to work with the ISU and all stakeholders to ensure the relevance of the Convention and that States Parties adhere to and uphold its provisions.

Madame President

3. With the strategic direction and guidance from the Presidency, Malawi and Peru together with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL)-Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC), with the support of the ISU on 29 April 2024, organized a Briefing Session for the Signatory and Non signatory States of East Africa. The meeting was also attended by States from other regions like Zimbabwe. The meeting discussed challenges that these States are facing which are preventing them from ratifying the Convention. Participants were assured of available support to assist their ratification and implementation efforts. South Sudan as one of the latest States to join the Convention shared its experience in the ratification process.
4. During the same month of April 2024, Malawi and Peru, in collaboration with Zambia and Australia as thematic coordinators on different themes of the CCM, organized a virtual meeting of the African Group in Geneva. During the meeting, coordinators urged member states which are signatories and non-signatory states to consider joining the Convention. The African Group was reminded of the important role that they have in ensuring that the region has proper

structures from preparedness and response, despite most of them not being producers of Cluster Munitions.

5. Furthermore, Peru as one of the coordinators of universalization, shared its experience regarding reporting on gender and diversity mainstreaming. This took place at the workshop on gender and diversity in reporting held on 30 May, organized by Australia, Belgium, Germany, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), and the ISU.

Madame President

6. Realizing the crucial role of Parliamentarians in the ratification and implementation of the Convention, the coordinators of Universalization organized a meeting with the Secretariat of the IPU, in April 2024. The ISU participated in the meeting too. The objective of the meeting was to establish a working relationship with the IPU and strategize on how best the issues of the Convention could form part of the IPU discussions. During the meeting, the IPU briefed on the programs they have which already focus on the CCM and other humanitarian disarmament treaties. However, it was noted that there was more to be done in terms of raising awareness regarding the CCM with parliamentarians. Currently, the issues of the CCM are discussed in the Standing Committee on IHL.
7. In July, the coordinators held a second meeting with the IPU Secretariat, and the following activities were agreed to be conducted between the two institutions:
 - Share briefing note with the ISU on the work of the IPU regarding the CCM

- Consider including the issue of CCM as a stand-alone agenda item of the upcoming session of the IHL Committee in October 2024
 - For the IPU to consider at that time, how to engage with the parliament of Lithuania on their then ongoing discussions to withdraw from the CCM
 - Discuss on how to include a perspective on cluster munitions in the scope of the upcoming IHL Open Session in October
 - Discuss opportunities on how to include the issue of cluster munitions in the work of the Committee on Peace and Security and/or within the broader humanitarian disarmament architecture of the IPU
 - Agree on a proposed workplan
8. In addition, this interaction with the IPU has led to them being invited, for the first time, to the Meeting of States Parties of the CCM. We therefore call on CCM States Parties to encourage their delegations at the IPU to support discussions on the CCM. The coordinators and the IPU are yet to discuss a concrete work plan on the work between the two institutions.
9. As coordinators of Universalization, we wish to express our sincere gratitude to the IPU for the positive attitude towards discussing the CCM. The CCM is at the stage where it requires a wide range of stakeholders to cement its relevance and importance.
10. **Madame President**, in addition to the above activities, on the 1st and 2nd of July 2024, Coordinators of Universalization joined the Mexican Presidency for online universalization workshops targeting the Caribbean and African regions, through their Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York.
11. In conclusion, Malawi and Peru wish to remind you that universalization is a joint responsibility of all States Parties. Therefore,

while reaffirming our determination to put an end for all time to the suffering and casualties caused by cluster munitions, we need to redouble our efforts to accelerate the universalization process.

Thank you.