



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
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## **12th Meeting of States Parties of the Convention on Cluster Munitions**

### **Agenda Item 10(a) - Universalization**

#### **IPU Statement**

Madam President,

The Inter-Parliamentary Union is honoured to participate for the first time as an observer in the Meeting of State Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

The IPU, the global organization of national parliaments, has long promoted humanitarian disarmament and advocated for adherence to international humanitarian law treaties by providing its 180 Member Parliaments expertise and technical support in this area.

On the occasion of this meeting, we wish to reaffirm our commitment to mobilize the parliamentary community for the universalization of the CCM.

Under the leadership of its Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law, the IPU has consistently raised awareness of the devastating impact of cluster munitions on civilians and encouraged parliamentary action towards universalization of the Convention.

The role of parliamentarians in this process cannot be underestimated. They are instrumental in dispelling doubts, preconceived notions and misunderstandings before their constituents. They can also advocate and lobby to encourage their government to sign the Convention and use their political influence and networks to accelerate the ratification or accession process. The IPU looks forward to working with the ISU on strategies to further engage parliamentarians on the issue of universalization.

The Convention constitutes an essential part of the international humanitarian law framework. Adherence is key to upholding IHL rules and principles and addressing ongoing threats that cluster munitions pose to civilians. Tackling this reality is only possible when States move forward towards universalization of the Convention, and not withdraw from it.

Ensuring a future where the Convention's framework is strengthened involves cooperation among all international and national actors. Needless to say that parliamentarians have a pivotal role to play in this endeavour.

Thank you.

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