

Thank you President and to our coordinator Austria,

This Intersessional Meeting provides an opportunity for States Party to collectively re-affirm our commitment to the Convention and its aims at a time of heightened international conflict and tension. Ireland notes with concern that since the last Meeting of States Party to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, one State Party has concluded the process of formally withdrawing from the Convention. Ireland remains concerned about developments that could weaken the norm against the production, stockpiling, transfer or use of cluster munitions. We fully recognise the context in which this decision was made, prompted as it was by the illegal and unjustified invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation whose condemnable actions, including the use of cluster munitions, continue to threaten both European security and civilian lives.

President

Ireland believes that we should not lose sight of the fact that we have collectively secured vital progress on land clearance, victim support and survivor engagement, as well as risk education and awareness. However, more needs to be done and Ireland recognises the challenges before us. As State Parties noted at the 12th MSP, it is reported that cluster munitions were used in at least nine countries across 2023 to 2024. The long-term reverberating impacts of the use of cluster munitions produce an unacceptable cost to men, women, girls and boys. We particularly note the stark reality that 93% of all casualties of

cluster munitions in 2023 where the status was recorded were civilians and more than a quarter were child casualties who make up close to half of all casualties from cluster munition remnants.

President,

There is no acceptable use of cluster munitions, and Ireland cannot support their use by any actor at any time. We reaffirm our commitment to the CCM and its full and effective implementation, including working to progress the actions of the Lausanne Action Plan. We also reaffirm our opposition to the development, production, stockpiling and transfer of cluster munitions by all actors. We call upon those who continue to do so, to cease doing so now.

Thank you.