

Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, agenda item 8: General Exchange of Views

President,

Allow me to begin by congratulating the Philippines for their leadership in guiding this meeting and advancing the objectives of the Convention. We also wish to thank the Implementation Support Unit and all coordinators for their tireless work in support of the Convention, even amid challenging circumstances worldwide.

In 2024, the world once again witnessed a record number of areas cleared of cluster munitions, demonstrating the tangible impact of coordinated mine action efforts. These achievements give hope that, together, we can continue to protect civilians and advance the goals of the Convention.

Norway would also like to welcome Vanuatu to the CCM family as the most recent country to formally become a State Party. By becoming a State Party at this moment, Vanuatu shows principled support for affected States and reaffirms the central importance of international humanitarian law, especially in times of global uncertainty. We call on all remaining states not yet party to the convention to join without delay.

President,

Across the globe, civilians continue to bear the heaviest burdens, facing displacement, injury, and loss of life. In this context, humanitarian disarmament is more critical than ever. Treaties that prohibit inhumane and indiscriminate weapons, such as cluster munitions, provide essential protections for civilians and reaffirm our collective commitment to reducing human suffering.

Norway recognizes that legitimate security concerns in Europe and beyond have led many States to increase military spending and strengthen national defense. Yet the supposed military value of cluster munitions, long questioned, cannot justify the indiscriminate harm these weapons cause to civilians. We call on all States Parties to stay committed to the Convention on Cluster Munitions and to fully respect their obligations. This Convention

has served us well for many years, and we must continue our efforts to keep it strong and relevant.

President,

The extensive use of cluster munitions in Ukraine is appalling. The contamination is believed to be massive and will have negative consequences for civilians in decades to come. Norway continues to condemn in the strongest terms Russia's illegal and unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine. We remain steadfast in our commitment to support the Ukrainian people in their fight for survival as long as it takes. In 2024 Norway provided approximately 18 million USD to clearance activities in Ukraine. We will continue to support efforts to address new contamination, through risk education, victim assistance and clearance of unexploded ordnance.

President,

Attention must be given to the ten remaining States Parties with obligations under Article 4. We note with some concern that the majority are not on track to complete their obligations any time soon. Several have already received extensions, and additional requests are pending. In some cases, it boils down to lack of financing and difficulties accessing and carrying out surveys in certain areas. As States Parties we all share a responsibility to contribute to the accomplishment of the objectives set out in the Convention. Donor countries and affected states should coordinate better to identify gaps and explore possibilities to establish Country Coalitions, which have proven to be effective. The active participation of operators, civil society and mine action authorities in these efforts is crucial.

Norway remains fully committed to supporting the implementation of the Convention under Article 6. Despite increasing constraints on the funding landscape, it is crucial to maintain predictable support for mine action, ensuring that clearance, risk education, and victim assistance continue without interruption. Norway is currently funding mine action activities in over 20 countries. Our Humanitarian Strategy prioritizes addressing weapons that continue to cause death and injury long after a conflict ends, including cluster munitions. Norway will also continue to advocate for the

EWIPA declaration, which seeks to prevent civilian harm when explosive weapons are used in populated areas, in accordance with international humanitarian law.

President,

The financial sustainability of the Convention is a growing concern. By becoming States Parties, we have all made a commitment to ensure that the machinery of this Convention, including the ISU, is sustained financially. Assessed contributions must be paid within deadlines to avoid deficits that prevents the full implementation of the Convention.

Rest assured that Norway will remain a vocal and committed advocate for the implementation of this Convention in the years to come.

I thank you.