

Convention on Cluster Munitions

13th Meeting of States Parties

Ireland General Statement

President,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you, Ambassador Sorreta, on assuming the Presidency of the Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. I assure you of our delegation's full support.

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

President,

Over the 17 years since the Convention's adoption in Dublin in 2008, Ireland has maintained a strong and unwavering commitment to the CCM. The Treaty has established itself as a critical instrument for the protection of civilians in conflict, and an important component of the international disarmament framework. The Convention has successfully enabled progress on land clearance, victim support and survivor engagement, as well as risk education and awareness. Two years ago, the CCM marked a major accomplishment: the destruction of 100% of States Parties' cluster munition stockpiles. These are commendable, life-saving accomplishments worth celebrating. We also warmly

welcome the news that Vanuatu has become the 112th State Party to this Convention. This is a very positive development following a number of years without new accessions/ratifications.

President,

Today we are faced with the difficult task of reversing some negative trends facing the CCM. Ireland is deeply concerned by the documented use of cluster munitions in Myanmar, Syria, and in the conflict in Ukraine, as well as 314 recorded casualties of cluster munitions in nine countries in 2024 according to the Cluster Munition Monitor, all of whom were civilians. This is simply unacceptable.

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 condemn the use of cluster munitions by any actor, at any time. There is no acceptable use of cluster munitions. We oppose the development, production, stockpiling and transfer of cluster munitions by all actors and we call upon those who continue to do so, to cease doing so now. This commitment also extends to States not party to the convention.

President,

Disarmament conventions are not obligations for peace time only, they are relevant especially in times of armed conflict. It matters how wars are fought.

The use of cluster munitions, or facilitation of such use, must never be normalised in any circumstances. Actions that facilitate the use of these weapons, including their transfer, also threaten to undermine this norm.

President,

Ireland reiterates our strong condemnation of the Russian Federation's ongoing illegal and unjustified full-scale invasion against Ukraine. We will continue to do our part to support Ukraine and its people as they defend their country against the Russian Federation's unlawful aggression, in line with Article 51 of the UN Charter. The Russian Federation's condemnable actions, including the use of cluster munitions, threaten both European security and the lives of civilians.

President,

We believe it is vital to reaffirm the importance of the CCM at a time in which international norms are under threat. It is our consistent view that these weapons are outdated, unreliable, and ineffective. They pose known and unacceptable risks to civilians, both during conflict and long after conflict is over. As Ireland has expressed at previous meetings of the CCM, withdrawals from Conventions focused on the protection of civilians risk a deterioration of the norms and principles of IHL with potential negative knock-on effects. We call on all States Parties to renew their commitment to the Convention and to those not Party to join as soon as possible.

President,

Ireland commends the ongoing work of the Gender and Diversity in Mine Action Working Group. Inclusivity is essential for ensuring the full and successful implementation of the CCM in its goals to support victims, survivors and communities affected by cluster munitions. It is important that the progress made over recent years be protected and furthered as we seek to deepen implementation of the Lausanne Action Plan.

President,

We look forward to collaborating with States Parties, civil society and other stakeholders in reinforcing the CCM, to renew our efforts in its implementation and universalisation, and ultimately upholding the vital norm it has created, with a view to protecting civilians during and after armed conflict.

Thank you.