

**Convention on Cluster Munitions Annual Meeting of States Parties**  
**16 September 2025 - GENEVA**  
**General statement from Canada**

Thank you Mr. President,

On behalf of the Canadian delegation, I would like to express our appreciation to you for the manner in which you have prepared the work of this 13th Meeting of States Parties and for the efforts by The Philippines in support of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) over the past year, including the outreach in the Indo-Pacific region to promote the CCM.

I would start off by saying that like many in the room, Canada is bound by our obligations to CCM, and we remain firmly committed to the Convention. This includes speaking out publicly against the use of cluster munitions. Canada is proud to have been one of the countries that led on the banning of cluster munitions around the world and we continue to believe that they should not be used. We are committed to ending the suffering and long-lasting impacts caused by these indiscriminate weapons, particularly on civilians. We welcome advances made towards the norms of the Convention, particularly noting States Parties achievements in destroying their stockpiles. We also welcome the hard work undertaken by the Gender Focal Points for helping mainstream gender in the CCM context.

We would stress that States not party to the Convention are legally obligated to respect the principles enshrined in international humanitarian law (IHL) during armed conflict, and this applies to any weapon, including cluster munitions. We discourage all States not party to this Convention from engaging in the transfer, stockpiling, and use of cluster munitions.

Mr. President,

Canada is pleased that we reached a new annual record in 2024 for global clearance of cluster munition-contaminated areas. This news is indeed very much needed and welcomed. But we must not lose sight of the challenges which remain. For example, 26 states and other areas remain contaminated by the remnants of these weapons. We are increasingly concerned by the on-going allegations and use of cluster munitions over the last year in multiple regions around the world. Additionally, no State Party is on track to fulfil its Article 4 obligations by the Third Review Conference of the CCM in 2026. My delegation will be making additional interventions on universalization and transparency later this week. We would be remiss if we did not first congratulate Vanuatu for joining the Convention, and we call on other states to take this important step to help universalize the CCM.

Mr. President,

Canada is committed to supporting and fostering collaboration with numerous non-governmental organizations and representatives from international bodies to promote inclusivity in advancing the Convention. The valuable contributions of these entities play a

crucial role in strengthening the norm against cluster munitions and working towards a global environment free from the destructive impact of these indiscriminate and inhumane weapons. Additionally, we are particularly supportive of youth participation in this Convention, and Canada is proud to continue supporting efforts to bring youth to Geneva in order to foster a new generation of practitioners in addressing the challenges posed by cluster munitions.

Thank you.