

Cluster Munitions Convention
13th Meeting of States Parties
16.-19.9.2025

Item 10(i) – Gender Mainstreaming
Statement by Austria

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Thank you, Mr. President,

This year, we mark the 25th anniversary of the Women, Peace and Security agenda. It reminds us that peace is most sustainable when it is inclusive and that gender equality, diversity and the protection of civilians must remain at the heart of our work. Austria warmly welcomes this dedicated plenary on gender mainstreaming and thank our colleagues from Germany, for their tireless efforts to keep this issue high on our agenda for the past two years.

There has been progress. The Lausanne Action Plan calls on States Parties to integrate gender and diversity into all aspects of its implementation. According to the latest Mine Action Review, 60 % affected States Parties now do so. This is a real step forward. Studies from Afghanistan, Iraq, Lao PDR, and Sri Lanka show that employing women in mine action transforms not only the women's own lives but the entire communities. These are powerful examples of what can be achieved when political will and resources align. It is a key factor to break down barriers, change social norms, and bring additional voices into peacekeeping, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction. Gender-balanced, diverse mine action teams reach more people, listen better, and, in effect, are better prepared to ensure to leave no one behind.

We commend affected States Parties that have reported significant steps in gender and diversity mainstreaming since our last Meeting. At the same time, gender and diversity mainstreaming is a duty of all States Parties. Under the UN SaferGuard programme, Austria together with UNODA and AMAT for the last three years has been training women technical experts in ammunition management from all regions, thereby not only strengthening their role and meaningful participation in national institutions but also empowering them to act as peers and build their networks and share their knowledge and experience further.

Mr. President,

Despite our successes, more needs to be done to implement gender mainstreaming across all action points of the Lausanne Action Plan. Too often, diversity factors like age, disability, or other

diversity factors are missing entirely. This leaves real gaps - in data, in programming, and ultimately therefore also in protection and assistance. Let's remind ourselves that gender and diversity mainstreaming is not about ticking just another box. It is essential to make the work under the CCM as effective as possible and that risk education, clearance and victim assistance meet the needs of all parts of the community. The Lausanne Action Plan and the Women, Peace and Security agenda work hand in hand for building and sustaining peaceful and inclusive societies.

Thank you