

Gender and Diversity Working Group (GDWG) Statement on Gender mainstreaming, CCM Meeting of State Parties, 16-19 September 2025

Thank you, Mr. President,

The Gender and Diversity Working Group would like to thank you for having a dedicated session on this important matter. As our approach to gender and diversity mainstreaming evolves, so should our way of discussing it in this setting. We hope this session can be used to share practical examples of initiatives to mainstream gender and diversity across national mine action programmes, and to discuss how to better ensure a gender balance in our convention work. We must consider ways to ensure cross cutting issues such as gender become an integrated part of all convention implementation. The thirteen member organizations of the GDWG can attest that gender and diversity are not only key to increase the effectiveness of the implementation of the CCM, but they are also deeply relevant to every aspect of it.

With an unprecedented reduction in funding and new uses of cluster munitions, we must all redouble our efforts to implement the convention. Many of our member organisations have made great strides in recent years in implementing inclusive activities, and we believe it is crucial that gender mainstreaming remains an integral part of our work. Now is not the time to exclude any part of the community (whether by design or by oversight) from our efforts. Everyone who can contribute to our work should do so and everyone who can benefit from the Convention's implementation should benefit.

Particularly as it is the 25th Anniversary of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda (WPS), we should not forget about how cluster munitions impact women and girls. Cluster munitions often generate forms of socio-economic exclusion that affect them, leaving them with limited working opportunities, forcing them to care for injured male relatives and providing for their families in already stringent circumstances. Their role as caregivers and providers means they experience the indirect, long-term consequences of these weapons in unique and significant ways.

We need more information to ensure that our investments of time and funding are reaching the people who need it most, so we call on all states to ensure that sex and age disaggregated data is collected and shared in their Article 7 transparency reports. This will allow for more accurate, gender-sensitive programming that addresses the diverse needs of affected populations.

Gender and diversity mainstreaming guarantees that the different needs and views of all, regardless of age, disability, ethnicity, gender - or other factors - are addressed and

marginalised communities and individuals affected by cluster munitions are included. The Cluster Munition Monitor reports that the majority of cluster munition casualties in 2024 were men and boys. We know this because of those states that disaggregate casualty data according to sex and age, which then leads to designing and adopting gender sensitive approaches to risk education. However, we need more information and better sex- and age-disaggregated data to ensure effective and inclusive interventions.

We appreciate the states that are sharing their experiences and their questions under this agenda item.

Finally, we would like to encourage all States Parties to focus on the fact that there are important operational justifications underpinning the need to consider gender and diversity in the implementation of this Convention. We sincerely hope that this dedicated session on gender and diversity mainstreaming can be seen as an occasion to share experiences and to speak about these themes and their importance in saving lives and protecting the human dignity of every person.

Thank you.