

IHLI Oral Intervention under Item Storage and stockpile destruction

Thank you, Mr./MS . Chair

At the outset, we wish to commend the efforts undertaken by **Lebanon** in clearing its contaminated land, despite the very real challenges it continues to face, including the ongoing shelling of southern Lebanon, which places continuous constraints on the completion of its work.

Despite progress made in the destruction of stockpiles, a number of states still retain significant quantities of cluster munitions, and some have been used in recent conflicts, including in **Ukraine** and **Syria**. The continued use of these weapons reminds us that the danger has not ended, and that civilians remain at the forefront of their devastating impact.

Mr.Chair,

We are also witnessing troubling trends in the pursuit of new technologies and the integration of artificial intelligence into the military domain. Yet, by their very nature, cluster munitions cause widespread harm to civilians, leave long-term contamination, and threaten human security. Any further “development” of these weapons will not reduce the risks it will only amplify their destructive consequences.

Therefore, we emphasize the urgent need for a responsible dialogue with technology companies providing AI services, and for the private sector to be involved in transparent discussions to establish standards, awareness guidelines, and safeguards. Such measures must be incorporated into the post-Lausanne Action Plan framework.

We stress that technological advances must never be used as a justification to undermine humanitarian norms. On the contrary, they should drive us to broaden universalization, strengthen monitoring and verification mechanisms, provide support for clearance and victim assistance, and promote the responsible use of technology to safeguard future generations from humanitarian and environmental risks.

The effective prohibition of cluster munitions will only be achieved when their use is stopped, their stockpiles are destroyed in a transparent manner, and any attempts to redevelop them are firmly rejected.

Our recommendations to States Parties are as follows:

1. Ensure full transparency and provide detailed reports on progress in stockpile destruction.
2. Reject any justification for the development or modernization of cluster munitions under the pretext of technological advancement.
3. Launch consultations with the private sector, particularly technology companies, to establish clear standards that prevent the misuse of artificial intelligence in the development of prohibited weapons.
4. Provide sustainable funding and technical assistance to affected states to accelerate stockpile destruction and ensure the safety of local communities and the environment.
5. Integrate youth and civil society into the monitoring and oversight of stockpile storage and destruction, while strengthening regional and international cooperation.

Thank you.