

The Convention on Cluster Munitions

Third Review Conference

Intervention By Denmark

Denmark fully aligns itself with the statements made by the European Union.

We congratulate the Chair on assuming the role of President of the Third Review Conference Meeting of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). We look forward to your leadership and we assure you of our full support and cooperation in advancing this Conference and achieving a successful outcome.

Denmark reaffirms our continuing commitment to the CCM and its objectives to alleviate human suffering and the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions. We remain committed to advancing the humanitarian objectives that underpin the Convention and we support efforts to strengthen global adherence to the Convention.

Nearly two decades after its adoption, the Convention has brought significant benefits to many communities affected by armed conflict across the world. It has saved countless lives, strengthened the protection of civilians and significantly contributed to end the suffering caused by the impacts by cluster munitions and explosive remnants of war.

The current geopolitical context makes this goal even more pressing. The humanitarian consequences of armed conflict remain severe and civilians continue to bear the greatest burden. The reported use of cluster munitions in recent conflicts are deeply concerning, causing unacceptable harm to civilians, including children, and creates long-term contamination that leaves lasting impact on communities, affecting recovery and development for decades in the affected areas.

Denmark underlines the importance of compliance with international law and international humanitarian law. The protection of civilians must remain as a core priority, both during and after the end of armed conflict. We deplore the harm to civilians, including children, caused by abandoned cluster munitions and other unexploded ordnances.

In this regard, we reiterate our condemnation in the strongest terms of Russia's illegal and unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine in clear violation of their obligations under

international law. We deplore Russia's continued use of cluster munitions against civilians in Ukraine, including in densely populated urban areas.

The Third Review Conference offers a timely opportunity to reflect on the progress achieved since the adoption of the Convention and to reaffirm our collective commitment to its full and effective implementation. It is also an important moment to assess the implementation of the Lausanne Action Plan (LAP), take stock of advances made since the previous Review Conference, and identify where renewed efforts are required. Denmark remains committed to promoting an inclusive and gender-responsive approach across all aspects of the Convention's implementation, recognising that the meaningful participation of women and men is essential to sustainable and effective mine action.

The EU and its Member States remain among the largest donors to mine action. We provide sustained political, financial and technical support for clearance, victim assistance and risk education, including in regions facing severe and protracted contamination. In its national capacity, Denmark provides an annual core contribution to UNMAS of approx. 2 million EUR [15 mil. DKK] for humanitarian mine clearance, including cluster munitions, in addition to Denmark's annual core contribution to the CCM.

Denmark extends its appreciation to the wide range of partners whose commitment and expertise underpin the implementation of the Convention, including United Nations entities, the ICRC, mine action operators, and civil society organisations. Working on the ground and alongside affected communities, these actors play an indispensable role in addressing the humanitarian consequences of cluster munition remnants through clearance, stockpile destruction, risk education, victim assistance, advocacy, and other forms of support. Their continued efforts are critical to translating the commitments of the Convention into tangible improvements in the lives of affected communities.

Denmark welcomes progress being made in clearance of contaminated areas by cluster munition remnants, but much remains to be done. Denmark will continue to engage constructively with all partners to advance the humanitarian objectives of the Convention.