

CCM REVCON CANADA INTERVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Mr. President,

My delegation would like once again to congratulate you on assuming the Presidency of the Convention. We also wish to congratulate the Coordinators of the International Cooperation Committee and thank them for their important work and dedication in advancing our collective efforts to address the humanitarian challenges posed by cluster munition contamination.

Mr. President,

Canada remains deeply concerned by the continued use of cluster munitions in different parts of the world. It is particularly disheartening to hear, year after year, of the devastating and disproportionate impact these weapons continue to have on civilians. Their effects do not end when hostilities cease. Unexploded submunitions can remain a deadly threat for years, and even decades, preventing communities from safely returning to their homes, accessing agricultural land, rebuilding infrastructure and pursuing sustainable livelihoods.

Once again, Canada calls on all States to refrain from using cluster munitions and to uphold the norms and obligations established by the Convention.

Mr. President,

Canada firmly believes that international cooperation is at the heart of our collective ability to address cluster munition contamination. The scale, complexity and often long-term nature of contamination require sustained cooperation among affected States, donor countries, international and regional organizations, civil society, implementing partners and local communities.

International cooperation is not simply about providing financial resources. It is also about sharing technical expertise, strengthening national capacities, exchanging information and best practices, supporting risk education and ensuring that assistance is responsive to the needs and priorities identified by affected communities. Effective cooperation allows us to make better use of limited resources and, importantly, ensures that our efforts have a tangible impact on the ground.

Canada supports a number of initiatives around the world related to the disposal of explosive remnants of war, including landmines and cluster munitions. Our support addresses a broad range of mine action activities, including clearance, gender mainstreaming, mine risk education, policy development and community engagement. We recognize that each affected context is different and that our international assistance must therefore be flexible, needs-based and responsive to local realities.

In 2025, Canada was pleased to support projects in Ukraine, Burkina Faso, Iraq, Sri Lanka, Lebanon, Syria, the Sahel region, Sudan and Lao PDR. Additionally, we support a number of operational projects with a global remit. Canada's global reach in providing assistance to States Parties affected by landmines and cluster munitions demonstrates our commitment to the Convention and our understanding that the CCM is, fundamentally, a global framework requiring global solidarity.

Mr. President,

The scale of contamination in some affected States is immense, and the challenges are becoming increasingly complex. In such circumstances, sustained international cooperation is more important than ever. We must ensure that clearance efforts are adequately resourced and that States Parties have access to the expertise and capacity required to meet their obligations. We must also ensure that assistance reaches those who are most affected, including women, children, persons with disabilities and communities living in remote or underserved areas.

Canada therefore strongly encourages all States Parties that are in a position to do so to contribute to the fight against cluster munition contamination and contributing to the work of the Implementation Support Unit, which remains critical to the effective functioning of the Convention and to facilitating cooperation among States Parties.

We also recognize the importance of coordination. Greater coordination among donors, affected States, international organizations and implementing partners can help avoid duplication, identify gaps and ensure that available resources are directed where they can have the greatest impact. The Convention provides an important framework through which we can strengthen this cooperation and maintain our collective focus on the needs of affected communities.

Finally, Mr. President, Canada wishes once again to emphasize the importance of compliance with Article 7 reporting obligations. Timely, accurate and comprehensive reporting is not merely an administrative requirement. It is an essential tool for transparency, accountability and effective international cooperation. Reliable information on contamination, clearance progress, national capacities and assistance needs allows donors and partners to better understand where support is required and to coordinate more effectively in responding to on-the-ground needs.

At a time when resources are under increasing pressure and humanitarian needs continue to grow, we must make every effort to ensure that international assistance is targeted, coordinated and impactful. Canada remains committed to working with all States Parties and partners toward this objective.

Thank you, Mr. President.