



**Statement on Universalization
Second Review Conference to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (first part)
25-27 November 2020.**

Thank you, Mr. President,

The universalization of the Convention and its norms should remain a top priority for us all until there is no more use of cluster munitions by anyone anywhere under any circumstances and until all states join the Convention!

The Cluster Munition Coalition welcomes the new State Parties to the CCM: Maldives, Sao Tomé & Príncipe, Niue and more recently Saint Lucia! However, we regret that we didn't hear updates from states on their ratification or accession process.

We thank the Government of Granada that with the support of the Canadian Government hosted a successful regional CARICOM workshop earlier this year. We highlight the efforts made by the Philippines for organizing the webinar with ASEAN Defense Ministers. We welcome Malta and Panama for promoting universalization in the UPR, and we encourage others to follow this initiative. We acknowledge New Zealand and ICRC universalization efforts and we applaud the Presidency for its outreach efforts in Geneva and globally.

The CMC has worked directly with more than 35 countries over the past year. We have undertaken global campaign actions, mobilized campaigners around the world, sent letters and engaged with capitals via teleconferences. We are happy to have directly contributed to the accession of Saint Lucia. We held high-level conversations with government officials from the Democratic Republic of Congo and engaged with Argentina, Bahamas, Brunei, Cambodia, Cyprus, Kenya, Liberia, Nepal, Nigeria, Thailand, Yemen, among others.

We welcome the adoption of the resolution on the implementation of the Convention at the First Committee, and the fact that for the very first time it was approved with no vote against! We hope that the 32 non-state parties that voted in favor, join the Convention as soon as possible! And that the resolution receives more votes in favor when it is voted in the GA.

Delegates,

Five years ago, in Dubrovnik, States committed to bringing 130 members on board by the 2nd Review Conference. Today we are unfortunately far behind this goal.

The universalization of the convention is a legal obligation for all CCM States Parties. We believe it is absolutely crucial that ALL States Parties take seriously their responsibility of protecting and further promoting THEIR convention and its norms through proactive engagement with States not party in all available fora.



Strong, collective and coordinated effort is indispensable to achieve the universalization goal. The recently created informal universalization working group can well serve this purpose, provided it is fully engaged and active. States Parties' universalization efforts could be also supported by a special envoy or a similar figure as mentioned by Italy, as well as intersessional work programme, which we hope will be reinstalled by the Review Conference. We welcome the proposal put forward by the coordinators in their paper "Ways forward on Universalization" to be adopted by the Conference.

Delegates,

Universalization isn't just formal adherence; it is also respect of the norm.

As Austria, Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Mexico, and UK said yesterday, we also continue to be gravely disturbed by the ongoing use of cluster munitions in Syria (for close to 10 years now!), which accounts for over 80% of all casualties recorded globally. We are also deeply concerned about the recent use of cluster munitions in the Nagorno – Karabakh region by both Armenia and Azerbaijan, there is indisputable evidence on this regard. All CCM States Parties must categorically condemn all use and call upon users to cease use immediately, to adopt national moratoria and to join the Convention.

Numerous and repeated instances of use of cluster munitions since the First Review Conference demonstrate the urgent need for our community to work out a new mechanism or machinery that would address use and defend the norms established by the Convention in a more effective way, including through a well-coordinated and orchestrated response by States Parties. The Review Conference is a unique opportunity to address these critical issues, including through its key outcome documents, such as the Action Plan and Political Declaration, and adoption of meaningful decisions on the machinery.

The CMC looks forward to stepping up efforts and continue working together with all of you in the next 5 years towards full universalization of the Convention and its norms.

Join the convention to save lives, prevent future tragedies, ensure survivors rights, and support community livelihoods.

I thank you Mr. President.