



**Statement to the 75th Session of the
General Assembly First Committee on Disarmament and International Security**

Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC)

13 October 2020

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Thank you, Chairperson,

Impressive progress has been made towards ridding the world of cluster munitions over the last decade. The weapon has been successfully stigmatised, with 60 per cent of countries supporting the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), which has 110 states parties and 13 signatories. The most recent states that joined the CCM were: Sao Tome & Principe, Niue and just last month Saint Lucia. A few months ago, we also witnessed two States Parties – Croatia and Montenegro completing their land clearance and becoming cluster munition free! This demonstrates that progress is possible and should indeed continue despite the current challenges that COVID-19 has posed.

To the states that are not yet party to this life saving convention: re-consider your position this year with the aim to join the convention. Talk to States Parties and see how they have overcome any reticence and were able to join despite all sorts of regional or local security concerns. Our message is clear: join the CCM now - to promote international law, to show solidarity with affected countries and communities, and to prevent future suffering by putting an end to cluster munitions once and for all.

One of the major challenges faced by the convention is the ongoing use of cluster munitions for close to 10 years (it has been over 9 years as of now) in Syria, and the recent use of this weapon in Nagorno-Karabakh. The Cluster Munitions Coalition condemns any use of cluster munitions by anyone, anywhere, under any circumstances and calls on all states not party to halt use immediately, to save lives and prevent future tragedies, and to join the convention this year ahead of its 2nd Review Conference, that will take place in Lausanne, Switzerland in November.

Here at the First Committee, we call on states to:

- Condemn all recent instances of use of cluster munitions (in Syria and Nagorno-Karabakh);
- Report on steps taken to join the Convention;
- Engage bilaterally in discussions on the universalisation or implementation of the Convention; and
- Vote in favour of the resolution on cluster munitions and encourage others, such as regional group members, to do as well.

We thank Switzerland for their leadership this year as President of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. We look forward to a productive 2nd Review Conference and adopting strong outcome documents that will effectively address the



key challenges in the next five years, including the ongoing use of cluster munitions; protection of the norms established by the Convention; the slow pace of universalization and instances of delayed implementation. We also look forward to adopting for the first time (in the work of this convention) actions and decisions that take fully into consideration gender and diversity, as well as environmental impact, in all aspects of the work under the convention.

Lastly, we look forward to seeing, that despite the current exceptional circumstances and limitations there is space provided for equal, active and meaningful participation by all stakeholders, including civil society organizations at the Review Conference and overall work of the Convention.

I thank you, Chairperson