



**Statement to the 76th Session of the
General Assembly First Committee on Disarmament and International Security**

Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC)

8 October 2021

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Thank you, Chairperson,

Eleven years have passed since the entry into force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, and its successes should be recognized and celebrated. A strong norm has been established against the use of these indiscriminate and inhumane weapons, with commendable progress made in clearing contaminated areas, destroying stockpiles, and providing assistance to victims.

Nevertheless, we have a long way to go before seeing a world free of cluster bombs, and some worrying trends require our attention and redoubling of our collective efforts. Regrettably, it has been over a year since a new country joined the convention - Saint Lucia acceded in September 2020 becoming the 110th State Party. We urge states not party to the CCM to reconsider their position and join the convention to promote international law, reinforce the stigmatization of cluster munitions, and help end the continuous civilian suffering caused by these weapons.

According to the latest Cluster Munition Monitor Report, Civilians accounted for **all** casualties whose status was recorded in 2020. Last year also continued the worrying trend from 2018 and 2019 of an annual increase in casualties, resulting from the recent use in Syria and Nagorno Karabakh.

The Cluster Munition Coalition condemns any use of cluster munitions by anyone, anywhere, under any circumstances.

More effort must be made to ensure medical care, psycho-social support and socio-economic inclusion of victims, survivors and their families. The rights of victims and survivors must be equally protected in keeping with the principles of impartiality, non-discrimination and neutrality.

Last month, the Second Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions concluded and States Parties adopted the Lausanne Political Declaration and Action Plan, reinforcing the clear message that all use of cluster munitions is unacceptable and that concerted efforts must be made to bring all states onboard the convention and make universal the stigma against the weapon. The Lausanne Action Plan lists specific actions that states must undertake to rid the world of cluster munitions and address their deadly legacy. The conference outcome documents also include 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.



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

- Vote in favor of the resolution on cluster munitions and encourage others, such as regional group members, to do so as well;
- Condemn all use of cluster munitions by anyone, including recent instances of use;
- Announce steps towards joining the Convention;
- Engage bilaterally in discussions on the universalisation or implementation of the Convention, and;
- Ensure and promote gender, age and disability inclusiveness in Treaty implementation.

We thank Switzerland for their leadership this year as President of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, and we look forward to working with the United Kingdom as President of the Convention's Tenth Meeting of States Parties, towards implementing the commitments set out by the Lausanne Action Plan.

I thank you, Chairperson