



*Check against delivery*

**United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action**  
**Second Part of the Second Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions**

*Delivered by Mr. Bruno Donat, Chief, Geneva Office, UNMAS*

Mr. President<sup>1</sup>,

The following statement is delivered on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA) comprising the United Nations entities involved in mine action.<sup>2</sup>

The United Nations would like first to commend you, Mr. President, for the efficient work of the Swiss presidency in making this second review conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) a success under difficult circumstances and for giving us the opportunity to meet in person for the second part of this conference. A special word of gratitude goes as well to Director Sheila Mweemba, the Implementation Support Unit and our sister entity, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, for their effective organization and steadfast support.

Mr. President,

The United Nations would like to thank you for giving all key CCM stakeholders the opportunity to reaffirm their determination to end the suffering caused by cluster munitions. It is needed.

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<sup>1</sup> Ambassador Felix Baumann, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the Conference on Disarmament and President of the Second Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

<sup>2</sup> The United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action consists of twelve United Nations Departments and Offices of the Secretariat, specialized agencies, funds and programmes: the United Nations Mine Action Service of the Department of Peace Operations, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and the World Bank are observers.



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While the world saw a drop of the number of cluster munitions casualties as reflected in the annual Cluster Mmunition Monitor to 277 casualties in 2018, the numbers recorded for 2019 and 2020 have risen – to 317 in 2019 and to 360 in 2020.<sup>3</sup> And even if the lower numbers were reported, the United Nations would remain very concerned as a number of casualties are unreported due to lack of access and imperfect data collection in affected territories.

However, there is one factor where data seems always clear and stable - the disproportionate impact on civilians due to the indiscriminate and inhumane nature of these weapons. Similarly to recent years, in 2020, civilians accounted for all casualties with known and recorded status, with children representing 44 % of all casualties where the age group was reported.<sup>4</sup>

The United Nations also highlights that the effects of cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war go way beyond the causation of direct casualties. When areas are confirmed or even suspected to be contaminated by these remnants of war, people know to stay away. In other words, even the suspicion of contamination effectively blocks the access of the local community to vital resources like agricultural land and water or to services and infrastructure like schools, clinics and markets.

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The United Nations strongly condemns all use, development, production, and transfer of cluster munitions and remains deeply concerned by their horrifying humanitarian consequences, especially when used in populated areas. The use of cluster munitions represents one of the

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<sup>3</sup> International Campaign to Ban Landmines – Cluster Mmunition Coalition; Cluster Mmunition Monitor 2021, page 48.

<sup>4</sup> International Campaign to Ban Landmines – Cluster Mmunition Coalition; Cluster Mmunition Monitor 2021, pages 50 and 51.



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biggest challenges to the universalization of the CCM. The international community should act together to discourage any new use of cluster munitions and firmly condemn any use by any actor under any circumstances.

Mr. President, Excellencies,

When it comes to the universalization of the Convention, the Dubrovnik Action Plan set an ambitious goal: reaching 130 States Parties by 2020. This goal has not been reached. There are only 110 States Parties to the Convention. This is far lower than it could be.

There are still thirteen signatory states that expressed their intent to be bound by the Convention over ten years ago. If these thirteen signatory states follow their original commitment by ratifying the Convention, the original goal of the Dubrovnik Action Plan will come much closer.

The United Nations also notes that out of 27 states with a United Nations mine action presence surveyed, only six are States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. This indicates that more work needs to be done to promote the universalization of this major international framework.

Mr. President,

The United Nations remains ready to support states to comply with the Convention and encourages states to provide additional funding.

The United Nations strongly encourages all states to accede to the Convention and to engage directly in the advocacy required to achieve universalization.



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Lastly, Mr. President,

The United Nations particularly encourages those states that already made the first important step of signing the Convention to now reaffirm their determination to end the suffering caused by cluster munitions through ratifying the treaty without further delay.

Thank you.

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