



Permanent Representation  
of the Federal Republic of Germany  
to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva

## **Statement**

**by the Permanent Representative of Germany**

**to the Conference on Disarmament,**

**Ambassador Peter Beerwerth,**

**on Universality**

**Convention on Cluster Munitions 2<sup>nd</sup> Review Conference**

**25 November 2020**

Mr. President,

Please allow me at the outset to congratulate you on the assumption of your office and assure you of my delegation's full support. In this context I would like to particularly commend you for your outstanding commitment and leadership during the difficult preparation phase of this review conference.

Mr. President,

When we are talking about universalization we do not only refer to the broadening of the membership base of the convention. We also refer to the universalization of the very norm of non-use which in the end makes the very difference between pain and suffering on one side and augmented human safety and security on the other. So what does this mean to us in practice 10 years after the entry into force of the convention and 5 years after the adoption of the Dubrovnik Action Plan ?

When it comes to the norm of non-use, we have seen remarkable progress. The trend is clear: as global production of CM decreases and

less countries hold arsenals of these treacherous weapons, the possible scenarios of use have clearly diminished. On top, the humanitarian objectives of the convention are more and more widely shared by the world community. The best testimony to this development has been the recent adoption by the First Committee of the UNGA of the annual resolution on cluster munitions without objecting votes for the first time. This is a great success we should build on.

Nevertheless, problems remain as the well documented cases of cluster munitions use during this review period, namely in Syria, Yemen, Libya and Azerbaijan demonstrate. We strongly condemn the use of these insidious and outlawed weapons and call upon all actors to refrain from such use, anywhere and any time, and to fully adhere to International Humanitarian Law.

When it comes to membership of the convention, the picture is also neither black nor white. Despite having missed the ambitious goal of the Dubrovnik AP of 130 members, we were able to attract a significant number of new members and enlarge the tally to 110. The even larger number -137- of supporting parties of the above mentioned RES in the UN is a clear sign, that there is indeed a significant potential to increase the membership and that the goal set in the DAP was not completely unrealistic.

So let us continue with and intensify our efforts to convince those who are not yet members. A large burden of this task falls on the incoming next Presidents of the convention. The experience we made during our presidency with numerous informal dialogues, including military to military between parties and state not party to the convention are uplifting.

With this in mind I, would encourage all future Presidencies and all states parties to continue working on all existing tracks to broaden not only the membership but also the norm of non-use to make sure that future generations will be spared from the plight of cluster munitions.

Thank you, Mr. President.