



**Message on the 10th Anniversary
of the Convention on Cluster Munitions**

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Warm Greetings to the Eighth meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Convention, a moment to take stock of its achievements and look ahead to further advance the Convention's objectives and its implementation.

With its total ban on the use, development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention or transfer of cluster munitions, this Convention is an example of "Disarmament that saves lives", a key pillar in the Secretary-General's Agenda for Disarmament launched in May this year.

The humanitarian concerns behind its adoption led to unprecedented provisions on victims' assistance covering not only the person directly impacted by cluster munitions, but also their affected families and communities, and making the connection with other applicable State obligations under international humanitarian law and human rights law.

Progress on universalization is essential to strengthen these norms. I encourage all States not already Parties to consider acceding or ratifying the Convention and I congratulate Sri Lanka and Namibia, for becoming the 103rd and 104th State Parties to the Convention.

This Convention has also had a concrete impact on the ground.

Almost the totality of global cluster munition stocks declared by the States Parties to the Convention have been destroyed. Approximately an astonishing 1.4 million cluster munitions and 177 million submunitions.

Land clearance continues to make progress. Vast areas of land have been released to the communities they belong to, a visual reminder of the inextricable link between disarmament objectives and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Over the years, these clearance efforts have also greatly benefited from an increased use of new technologies. Robots, remotely controlled demining machines, uncrewed aerial vehicles as well as improvements in protective equipment are examples of how new technologies can enhance our security.

In his Agenda for Disarmament, the Secretary-General stressed that disarmament initiatives have been most successful when they involved effective partnerships between all the relevant stakeholders.

This Convention was built upon such partnerships. The energy of civil society organizations with the commitment and cooperation of States and the institutional support of international organizations have been the main driving force of its success and implementation.

Although much has been achieved, there is still work that remains to be done.

Your work is important. I wish you all success.

Thank you.

