



IRELAND

UNGA80 First Committee

Thematic Debate on Conventional Weapons

Statement by Ireland

Chair,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union.

Global conflicts are straining the norms and principles underpinning the international disarmament architecture. Meanwhile, conflicts in the Middle East, Sudan, Ukraine and elsewhere highlight the unacceptable threats to civilians and civilian infrastructure.

Chair,

Key treaties such as the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons save lives, protect communities and make the world safer for us all. For this reason Ireland proudly supports the UN Secretary-General's campaign on humanitarian disarmament and mine action.

Ireland remains deeply concerned by the widespread use of explosive weapons in populated areas. We reaffirm the importance of universalising and implementing the Political Declaration on EWIPA. We look forward to the upcoming international conference in Costa Rica.

Chair,

The modern battlefield is changing rapidly and we must be responsive to emerging challenges.

Ireland calls for urgent progress on a legally binding instrument on autonomous weapons systems. We share the view of many other States that the 'rolling text' of the Chair of the Group of Governmental Experts of the Convention on Certain

Conventional Weapons (CCW) provides a sufficient basis to fulfil its mandate and proceed to negotiations on an instrument on autonomous weapons systems.

We are pleased to co-sponsor this year's LAWS resolution, sponsored by Austria.

Chair,

The Arms Trade Treaty is a vital instrument in the pursuit of a safer and more secure world. We call on all States Parties to fully apply Articles 6 and 7.

Ireland condemns any and all uses of cluster munitions. We are deeply concerned by the documented use of such indiscriminate weapons in Myanmar, Syria, and Ukraine. Ahead of the Third Review Conference of the CCM in Laos PDR next year, we stress the need for accelerated action to mitigate the impact that explosive ordnance contamination has on sustainable development.

Chair,

Russia's continuing war of aggression on Ukraine, and its reprehensible actions, including the use of anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions, threaten both European security and the lives of civilians. It is within this context that we have seen withdrawals from humanitarian disarmament treaties in the past year. Ireland is concerned by the potential knock-on effects of withdrawals on these instruments and international norms. We call on Russia to desist from its war of aggression and on all States to uphold and strengthen IHL and the global norm against landmines and cluster munitions.

Ireland recalls the deadly harvest sown through mine use and proudly supports humanitarian mine action and the essential work of organisations and local

communities involved in de-mining programmes. We call upon all State Parties to uphold and reinforce the Convention and to implement the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan.

Finally, Chair,

Ireland strongly supports multi-stakeholder approaches to further humanitarian objectives, and the critical role of civil society as well as victims and survivors.

We reiterate that conventional weapons impact communities and individuals, with a heavy toll of death and injury during and long after conflict has ended and must be addressed in a gender-responsive and inclusive manner.

Thank you.