

Norway – Statement First Committee

Cluster 4, Conventional Weapons

23.10.2025

Nina Selmer, First Secretary

Chair,

Norway is committed to international humanitarian law and safeguarding humanity in warfare. Protecting civilians from the devastating consequences of war is a lodestar.

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine continues to undermine international humanitarian law and erode long-standing achievements in conventional arms control and disarmament.

Humanitarian workers and UN personnel are protected by international humanitarian law and must never be attacked. The latest example of Russia's drone strike against a UN convoy in Ukraine demonstrates utter disregard for civilian lives and core international obligations.

Chair,

Norway is concerned by ongoing and new use of anti-personnel mines, an indiscriminate weapon that causes unacceptable civilian harm. Norway condemns any use of these indiscriminate weapons by any actor, under any circumstance.

We are concerned by withdrawals from the Conventions on Cluster Munitions and Anti-Personnel Landmines. These treaties are widely recognised as global successes, and annual UN votes show support well beyond formal States Parties. In times of growing insecurity, we must reaffirm—not retreat from—our collective obligations.

Chair,

The use of explosive weapons in populated areas causes widespread civilian suffering—from Gaza and Ukraine to Sudan and beyond. The Political Declaration on EWIPA remains a cornerstone for change. Its principles must be integrated into military policies, training, and doctrines. Norway urges all States to endorse and implement the Declaration.

Chair,

Autonomous weapons systems raise serious concerns. We must clarify and elaborate rules and norms to address them. We welcome the progress at the GGE on LAWS. The Chair's rolling text offers a sufficient basis for elements for an instrument to fulfil the mandate of the GGE. When the mandate expires, the CCW Review Conference should move us towards negotiations of an instrument containing these elements.

Chair,

The Arms Trade Treaty is an essential tool to prevent arms from fueling conflict or violating international law. As conflicts multiply, the risks of diversion and illicit trade grow. By building capacity, sharing best practices, and strengthening cross-border cooperation, we can keep the ATT effective. All Member States should join and fully implement the Treaty.

Finally, disarmament is a shared responsibility. The participation of civil society, international organizations, academia, and affected communities enriches and sustains progress. We must strive to ensure gender balance and integrate diverse perspectives in disarmament processes.

Thank you.