



As delivered

United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

Convention on Cluster Munitions Intersessional Meeting 2025 Statement under agenda item 3(a) – Universalization

Geneva, 7 April 2025

Delivered by Christelle Loupforest, Officer-in-Charge, UNMAS Geneva Office

Mr. President,¹

As this is my first time taking the floor, I would like to extend my congratulations to you as the President of the Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). You can count on the full support and cooperation of the United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA)², on behalf of which I am delivering this statement.

Excellencies,

The United Nations remains deeply concerned about the continued use of cluster munitions in armed conflicts putting civilian lives at grave risk.

The United Nations unequivocally condemns all acts of use, development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention, or transfer—whether directly or indirectly—of cluster munitions. These actions not only endanger civilian populations but undermine international norms and obligations under international humanitarian law (IHL).

¹ Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations Office in Geneva, H.E. Mr. Carlos D. Sorreta.

² 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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Recent conflicts have also tested the resilience of IHL, and the humanitarian norms enshrined in the Convention. These practices have serious humanitarian consequences, hinder peace operations and socio-economic recovery, and present significant challenges to the universalization of the Convention.

It is imperative that we reinforce the humanitarian principles underpinning the Convention and strengthen international accountability mechanisms to uphold compliance with IHL.

The United Nations advocates for the universal adherence to and implementation of all the IHL norms and calls on the disarmament community to advocate jointly on the basis of all relevant norms and treaties.

As a demonstration of the United Nations commitment to the implementation of this Convention, the issue of cluster munitions will be raised during the first cabinet level meeting on Mine Action, chaired by the Secretary-General, which will take place today at the UN Headquarters in New York.

Mr. President,

The United Nations deeply regrets the withdrawal of Lithuania from the Convention, which took effect in March. This development is of grave concern, as it risks undermining the international norm established by the Convention that protects individuals and communities worldwide. We emphasize that despite individual withdrawals, all States remain bound by their obligations under IHL. One State's decision must not erode the global consensus and moral imperative to eliminate the threat of cluster munitions.

At the same time, we commend the significant progress made in universalization efforts with South Sudan acceding to the Convention and Nigeria ratifying it in 2023 with support from the United Nations. We urge all States not yet party to the Convention to follow suit and demonstrate their commitment to preventing further humanitarian harm.



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Universalization remains a priority for the United Nations. We encourage States Parties and civil society to actively promote universalization through diplomatic engagement and outreach.

Mr. President,

The United Nations commends the Government of the Philippines for organizing, with the support of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the Southeast Asia and Pacific Regional Workshop on the CCM in March this year. Such regional initiatives are crucial to fostering dialogue, cooperation, and capacity development.

Finally, the United Nations stands ready to support all States in their efforts to comply with the Convention's obligations.

As the Secretary-General has stated in his message for the International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action on 4 April, the United Nations “*appeal to all States that have not yet done so to ratify and fully implement [...] the Convention on Cluster Munitions [...]. The humanitarian norms and principles enshrined in these treaties must be upheld and preserved.*”.

Thank you.

END