



PHILIPPINES

10th Meeting of State Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions

General Exchange of Views

Mister President,

The Philippine delegation congratulates you on your election as President of this 10th Meeting of States Parties and commends you for your leadership.

We also wish to pay tribute to Director Sheila Mweemba, who has served this Convention and its States Parties with impeccable professionalism.

We also thank His Excellency Ambassador Felix Baumann of Switzerland for his leadership of our Second Review Conference, which produced the Lausanne Action Plan. We look forward to working under the leadership of His Excellency Ambassador Abdul-Karim Hashim Mostafa of Iraq, whose designation as President of the 11th Meeting of States Parties we welcome.

Mister President,

The Philippines actively participated in the process that led to the negotiation, adoption, and entry into force of this Convention. Even before the completion of our domestic ratification process, we had been actively engaged in the work of this Convention. Once we became officially a State Party, we immediately accepted the invitation to work in the Coordination Committee as one of the thematic coordinators for universalization. Our work in this capacity for the past two years has been both challenging and

rewarding, and we look forward to relinquishing this mandate to another State Party this year.

We do not possess cluster munitions nor are we suffering from cluster munitions contamination. Yet our active engagement in this Convention finds anchor in our constitutional renunciation of war as an instrument of state policy, our ironclad commitment to International Humanitarian Law, and our determination to pursue humanitarian disarmament to the fullest extent.

We note with grave concern the use of cluster munitions in conflicts around the world, including in Ukraine. We join many other States Parties in condemning any use of cluster munitions by any actor under any circumstances.

We affirm that, as States Parties to this Convention, we have an obligation to promote the universalization not only of the Convention as a legal instrument but also of the norms that it enshrines.

Mister President,

In our engagement with all humanitarian disarmament processes, we have always been guided by two core principles: the centrality of victims and the strengthening of independent national capacities in responding to the challenges posed by these deadly weapons.

Promoting and protecting the interests of the victims of cluster munitions use and cluster munitions contamination should always be the primary goal of our efforts to implement this Convention. This requires a wholistic, inclusive, and nuanced appreciation of their needs, including through context-specific gender and diversity-sensitive and -responsive mine action.

Strengthening the independent national capacities of affected states entails incorporating mine clearance into their domestic efforts to achieve the

Sustainable Development Goals, and begins with reducing their reliance on foreign technical expertise and enhancing their national ownerships of mine action.

The Philippines firmly believes that upholding these two principles will enhance our collective efforts to firmly put an end to all suffering caused by cluster munitions.

I thank you, Mister President.