



PHILIPPINES

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

Report of Committee on Universalization

Mister President,

I wish to begin by expressing in my national capacity the Philippines' appreciation for your leadership of our work under this Convention.

Promoting the universalization of the Convention is an obligation of all States Parties, who shall work under the direction of the Presidency. The role of the coordinators is to coordinate this work. I have the honor to take the floor to report on the efforts that the Philippines and Spain have undertaken in this regard.

I will report on the activities that States Parties and other stakeholders have conducted since the conclusion of the Review Conference, while my colleague from Spain will take the floor after me to discuss some lessons learned and the way forward.

In accordance with the recommendations contained in the Ways Forward on Universalization, which was adopted by the Review Conference last year, we continued and expanded the work of the informal working group (IWG) on universalization. The first meeting was held on the 28th of March.

The IWG provides a platform for States Parties and stakeholders to engage information and ideas on how to better pursue universalization. Such coordination allows us to focus our work and avoid duplication of efforts in close coordination with the Presidency on our universalization strategies.

States Parties also pursued regional outreach activities in Africa and Southeast Asia. Nigeria, Switzerland, and the U.K. convened a regional workshop in Abuja on 23-24 March. We also note that the ISU has prepared and circulated a detailed report on this workshop.

The Cluster Munitions Coalition has also been working to promote the Convention among Commonwealth and Caribbean countries. The feedback we get is that the Caribbean region is another low-hanging fruit. There was an attempt to convene an outreach to Commonwealth countries in New York. Jamaica attended an event organized by the CMC on the 8th of April, during which Spain provided a briefing on the Convention, with Australia also in attendance. This meeting was an opportunity to learn about the issues concerning Jamaica's possible accession to the Convention.

On the sidelines of the Philippine Mine Action Stakeholders Workshop that was organized under the auspices of the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC) on 5-7 April in Phnom Penh, the Philippines conducted bilateral outreach to military officials from several Southeast Asian countries.

During these meetings, we transmitted a joint letter from the Philippines and Spain containing CCM ratification and information kits prepared by the ISU and the ICRC. In these meetings, we gained deeper understanding of the specific challenges related to accession to the Convention.

These challenges are unique to each country, and it is clear that we need to rethink or tweak the regional approach that we have been pursuing. We have also gained better clarity with regard to the identification of CCM champions in those countries, which is also a recommendation contained in the Ways Forward paper.

With the President-designate's permission, I now yield the floor to my colleague from Spain.

Thank you, Mister President-designate.