



**11th Meeting of the States Parties to the  
Convention on Cluster Munitions  
Geneva, 11-14 September 2023**

**Statement of the Federal Republic of Somalia**

**Presented by Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle (Director General of SEMA)**

**Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies, and gentlemen.**

On behalf of the government of Somalia, I am very pleased and honored to be here to provide a brief update on the progress and status of cluster munitions in Somalia.

There is limited information on cluster munitions contamination in Somalia, however, the presence of cluster munitions has been reported in some regions, which indicates the use of cluster munitions during the past conflicts. Due to the security and other limitations a country-wide survey has not been carried out. SEMA along with the humanitarian mine action partners is embarking on conducting NTS in all accessible districts as per the national action plan on the article 5 of the APMBC.

Somalia faces the threat of landmines, explosive remnants of war (ERW) and significantly the increased use of improvised explosive devices including mines of improvised nature. Minefields along the border with Ethiopia and unexploded ordnance abandoned across rural and urban areas continue to cause accidents that endanger the safety and access to productive lands to maintain livelihoods. This year (in June 2023), Somalia has recorded a total of 82 civilian casualties from ERW/landmine accidents, witnessing one of the worst Explosive Ordnance accidents in Murale village, under Lower-Shabelle of Southwest, State, killing more than 20 victims mainly children, and injuring more others, In addition to that during this year, mine action in Somalia has recorded 1, 834 civilian casualties in the result of improvised explosive devices. **After months of armed conflicts in Las'anod, the city is now relatively calm and displaced population started returning starting 25 Aug, however, the ERW contamination in and around the town is already causing injuring and deaths, preventing the safe return of the civilian population. There is urgent need of Mine Action response to allow civilians move freely and return to their home.** IEDs continue to kill and maim indiscriminately to the civilian population more than landmines and explosive ordnance combined. Explosive Ordnance still poses a threat to peace, stability, and recovery of the country.

Somalia doesn't produce, transfer, or store cluster munitions and Somalia adheres to the provisions of the cluster munitions convention including taking all appropriate legal, administrative, and other measures to implement the convention, and no activity prohibited to the state party under the convention has been undertaken.

## **Distinguished delegates,**

Let me remind you that under the Convention of Cluster Munition, Somalia is exerting efforts to remove all known Cluster Munitions in its jurisdiction while encountering political and security challenges which some parts of the country remain inaccessible to humanitarian and government agencies.

On the other side, insufficient funding has been a serious concern to the government of Somalia that could impede the ability to make progress towards clearance of the explosive ordnance including the known cluster munition affected areas. Considering the ongoing offensive operations against anti-government elements in some parts of the country, large swaths of territory have already been recovered, increasing the need for mine action services to reach out to the recovered districts and villages. The military operation is also expected to progressively expand to other regions in the second phase of the offensive operations. Over the last 15 years, some districts were cut off from other parts of the country, including access to humanitarian mine action workers.

At the same time, the government of Somalia requests continuous support from the international community and regards the mine action program in Somalia as a priority, to continue providing funding and technical support to enable Somalia to meet its obligations under the Convention on Cluster Munitions and increasing needs of the affected communities including newly recovered areas.

Explosive hazards including Cluster Munitions are still potential threats to the lives and livelihoods of the civilian population. This concern must

be eliminated and turned to opportunities, where citizens of Somalia can live in a safe and secure environment with dignity and prosperity.

**Your excellencies,**

In line with the requirement outlined in the convention, our focus will remain to scale up surveys in contaminated areas, provision risk education, and clearance of known cluster munition sites in the country, to make it possible for affected communities to improve their livelihoods, allow unused roads and pastureland to be accessed without fear of explosive ordnance including cluster munitions.

On behalf of the Government of Somalia, I would like to thank the people and governments of donor countries including the Governments of Japan, the United Kingdom, Norway, EU countries, Germany, the United States, and the United Nations for their contributions to the mine action program in Somalia. It is now critical more than ever, as Somalia is aiming to gain control of the territories controlled by anti-government elements, provide stabilization, and return to normalcy.

Allow me to conclude my remarks by highly appreciating Mine Action Operators in the country and the United Nations, as well as the male and female heroes in the field carrying out demining activities and risking their lives to save the lives of others. We would like to encourage their support and we look forward to their partnership on our way forward to a mine and cluster munitions-free Somalia.

Thank you!