



**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Mxolisi Sizo Nkosi,
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of South Africa to the
Eleventh Meeting of States Parties of the
Convention on Cluster Munitions
11 September 2023
Room XIX, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland**

(Check against delivery)

Mr President,

My delegation congratulates Your Excellency, Ambassador Abdul-Karim Hashim Mostafa, Permanent Representative of Iraq on assuming the role as President of the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties (11MSP) to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM).

My statement is aligned to the intervention to be made by the distinguished Permanent Secretary of the Nigerian Ministry of Defence on behalf of the Africa Group.

We further take this opportunity to welcome the new Director of the CCM Implementation Support Unit (ISU), Ms Pamela Moraga, and appreciate all the work undertaken in preparation for this meeting.

My delegation welcomes the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Republic of South Sudan as new States Parties to the Convention this year. We further acknowledge the importance of this Convention as we mark the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the CCM in Dublin, Ireland; and its thirteenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention.

Mr President,

South Africa is committed to and continues to support interventions undertaken at the national, regional, and global levels aimed at prohibiting the use of cluster munitions to end to the human suffering and

environmental destruction thereof. In pursuit of this goal, I wish to emphasise the importance of the full implementation of Article 5 on “Victim assistance” and Article 6 relating to “International cooperation and assistance”.

My country also remains committed to the Lausanne Declaration, which acknowledges the need for “strong national ownership” towards the full implementation of the Convention.

To that end, I wish to note that South Africa was able to submit earlier this year its annual transparency reports under the Article 7 reporting obligations, which were delayed due to several unforeseen challenges, including the disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Regarding the Article 3 reporting obligations, South Africa acknowledges the importance of eliminating these hazardous weapons. To this end, I am pleased to announce that South Africa completed its cluster munitions stockpile destruction process on 7 September 2023. We await the official certification and verification confirmation from the Department of Defence prior to the submission of South Africa’s Declaration of Compliance with the Convention, as agreed to by the Eighth Meeting of States Parties. This will confirm that South Africa has complied with and has met its stockpile destruction deadline of 01 November 2023.

Mr President,

My country remains resolute in fully implementing the objectives and principles of the Convention which aims to attain a world free of casualties, suffering and socio-economic impacts by prohibiting the use, stockpiling and transfer of cluster munitions.

In conclusion, I wish to take this opportunity to reassure this Meeting of States Parties of South Africa’s unwavering commitment to fulfill its obligations under this Convention.

I thank you.