



State of Palestine
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates

Convention on Cluster Munitions
11th Meeting of States Parties

Thank you Mr. President.

The State of Palestine warmly congratulates you on your election as the President of the 11th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, and expresses its high appreciation to you for leading our efforts in an outstanding, effective and transparent manner. We assure you of our delegation's full support.

We would also like to extend our congratulations to the Implementation Support Unit led by Ms Pamela Moraga for its excellent preparation for this meeting; its efforts are instrumental for leading our meeting to tangible results.

At the outset, we would also like to welcome Nigeria and South Sudan and congratulate them for joining the Convention.

Mr. President,

It is deeply deplorable that cluster munitions continue to be used as tools of war and continue to kill and injure innocent civilians. We call on all use, transfer and production of these weapons to cease immediately.

The State of Palestine acceded to the Convention on Cluster Munitions in 2015, with the conviction that the universalization of disarmament conventions would strengthen the international disarmament and arms control regime, enhance compliance towards international humanitarian law, and improve accountability against all violations, including the use of weapons prohibited under international law.

We urge all States to accede to the Convention, which is considered to be an extension of International Humanitarian Law and is vital to the reduction of human suffering in the times of conflict.

We invite the Coordinators on Universalization to hold a regional event in the Middle East before the 12th Meeting of States Parties and the Third Review Conference in 2025.

We also encourage the Coordination Committee to enter into a structured dialogue with States not Party to the Convention that are major producers and exporters of cluster munitions, relevant delivery systems, and relevant parts and components to accede to the Convention.

Mr. President,

The State of Palestine has submitted its annual report under Article (7). We look forward to further enhancing our reporting in the future; in this regard, we invite the Coordination Committee and the Coordinator on Transparency Measures to provide special attention and assistance to States that do not possess any stockpiles of cluster munitions.

Given the prolonged Israeli occupation of the State of Palestine, we are prevented from accessing and fully exercising jurisdiction or control over our territory, and therefore we are unable to confirm, in our transparency reports, whether the occupying power possesses any stockpiles of cluster munitions or has created any contaminated areas within our territory.

Despite the difficulties and obstacles Palestine faces as a result of the occupation, we are committed to continuing our clearance activities especially in areas that pose the greatest danger to the lives of Palestinian civilians. We hope that these noble activities aimed at protecting lives and ending human suffering will not be seen as an incentive for Israel, the occupying Power, to expand its illegal settlements into these cleared areas.

Mr. President,

In closing, the State of Palestine remains fully committed to the International Law rules-based order, which we believe is critical for ensuring freedom, justice and peace for all.

As a State Party to the Convention among other international treaties, the State of Palestine will remain an active and engaged member of the international community and multilateral efforts.

We stand ready to contribute to a successful outcome of the Meeting and to engage with other countries towards successful implementation and universalization of the CCM.

I thank you.