



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action
Eleventh Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster
Munitions

Statement on Universalization
Geneva, 13 September 2023

Delivered by UNMAS

Mr. President,

The following statement is delivered on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA)¹, comprising United Nations entities engaged in mine action.

The United Nations joins you in congratulating Nigeria and South Sudan, the two most recent States Party to the Convention since the last Meeting of States Parties. We would like to thank the Chairperson of the National Mine Action Authority of South Sudan, Mr. Jurkuch Barach Jurkuch and the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defence of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Dr. Ibrahim Abubakar, for their efforts to reach the final stage of ratification.

¹ The Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA) brings together United Nations entities involved in mine action. Twelve United Nations Departments and Offices of the Secretariat, specialized agencies, funds and programmes are members of the IACG-MA: the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) of the Department of Peace Operations (DPO), the Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and the World Bank are observers.



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UNMAS is pleased to be working in both countries to support implementation of the Convention.

The United Nations Secretary-General, in his Policy Brief on A New Agenda for Peace, encourages Member States to reduce the human cost of weapons, including by advancing instruments such as the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

The IACG-MA members will continue to advocate for the universalization of the Convention in close collaboration with the Presidency and the Implementation Support Unit.

Thank you.