



**STATEMENT BY THE THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO AT THE  
OCCASSION OF THE 12th MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE  
CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS**

**10-13 SEPTEMBER 2024**

## **THANK YOU MADAM PRESIDENT,**

My delegation wishes to take this opportunity to join the colleagues who spoke before me in congratulating you, for your election to preside over this 12th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Lesotho has great trust in your presidency and sound leadership, and wishes to assure you of its support throughout the proceedings of this meeting.

Lesotho views the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), as a landmark treaty with profound significance for the international disarmament course. We also recognize the Lausanne Action Plan, which serves as a guiding framework for the work of the CCM up to the Third Review Conference scheduled to take place in 2026.

In the past 14 years of its entry into force of the Convention, the international community has been striving to achieve the noble objectives of the Convention. Whilst progress made is remarkable, we are still faced with serious and complex challenges that threaten the existence of the treaty and cause significant humanitarian damage to the lives of hundreds and thousands of civilian populations. New and emerging humanitarian challenges that are brought about by defiance of the Convention are on the rise, and this means that the Convention is yet to be effectively and fully implemented. The Convention's emphasis on the indiscriminate and excessive effects of cluster munitions – both at the time of use and their long-term humanitarian impact – has

reinforced and further entrenched the fundamental principles of distinction and proportionality which are essential elements of international humanitarian law.

The burden placed by cluster munitions and explosive remnants of war on individuals, communities, regions and States remains high and unacceptable. It is in this sense that Lesotho strongly views the Convention on Cluster Munition as a congruent treaty which we could draw inspiration from, with a view to righting the persisting wrongs. Indeed, there is need, now more than ever, to scale up efforts to rid cluster munitions and help our societies to live in dignity and peace.

## **MADAM PRESIDENT**

Even though Lesotho is among countries that have not been affected by the devastating effects of cluster munitions, neither does it produce, transfer or possess cluster munitions stockpiles, as a member of the international community as well as a State Party to the Convention, we remain committed to the total ban of cluster munitions or their proliferation.

Furthermore, we reaffirm our commitment to the universalization of the Convention and to the full respect of the provisions of the Convention in entirety. It is in this context that my delegation wishes to take this opportunity to appreciate the Implementation Support Unit for the support it continues to offer states on the implementation and universalization of the convention.

We would like to conclude by underscoring that, the CCM still remains a vibrant and a living treaty that exerts legal obligations and duties to us all. We remain committed to the full universalization of the Convention and to promoting its norms, as well as to fully implementing the convention. The Convention's implementation contributes to advancing the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the promotion of international peace and security, human rights and international humanitarian law. It is through the concerted efforts of the United Nations system, its international and national partners, international community, national ownership and the participation of all people around the globe that we can reclaim the Convention and inject fresh impetus into it.

**I THANK YOU MADAM PRESIDENT!**