



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES



Twelfth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions 10-13 September 2024

Agenda Item 8: General Exchange of Views

Delivered by Ambassador Kristine Leilani R. Salle, Deputy Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the
United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva



Mister Vice President,

Allow me to begin by expressing our delegation's appreciation for Ambassador Francisca Mendez Escobar for her leadership and stewardship of the Convention on Cluster Munitions for the past year. The Philippines also extends its gratitude to the Implementation Support Unit for the untiring work and provision of assistance to the States Parties to the Convention.

The Philippines also extends its condolences to the delegation of Peru with regard to the recent passing of Ambassador Ana Cecilia Gervasi Diaz.

The Philippines' support to the CCM is anchored on our country's constitutional renunciation of war as an instrument of policy, our deep-rooted commitment to International Humanitarian Law, and our strongly driven pursuit of humanitarian disarmament. Consistent with our promotion of the humanitarian norms enshrined in the CCM and our position on landmines and incendiary weapons, we condemn the use of cluster munitions by any actor under any circumstances.

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The use of cluster munitions is not foreign to the peoples in our region. Southeast Asia had seen how the use of cluster munitions causes unnecessary suffering and superfluous injury. Their remnants pose a grave threat to peoples and communities for decades after the end of hostilities. Aside from physical harm and loss of innocent lives, the damage brought about by cluster munitions has long-term negative impact on socio-economic development and physical and psychological well-being of the victims.

Mister Vice President,

The Convention on Cluster Munitions represents a major breakthrough in global disarmament efforts and a milestone achievement of humanitarian disarmament efforts. A withdrawal from the Convention is a grave setback to the shared international commitment to reducing the humanitarian toll of these indiscriminate weapons, putting global efforts to prevent the harm caused by cluster munitions as well as the gains achieved by the Convention at risk of being undermined. This signals a troubling precedent at a time when multilateral cooperation and faithfulness to humanitarian norms are needed the most.

Despite these lamentable circumstances, fortitude will keep us going. These difficulties present to us opportunities to look closer into the achievements of the Convention as well as to work further and increase efforts to bring in more like-minded states to this Convention.

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As States Parties, we have an obligation to promote the universalization not only of the Convention as a legal instrument but also the norms that it seeks to enshrine.

Mister Vice President,

Five years ago, the Philippines ratified the CCM and became its 106th State Party. Since then, the Philippines has continuously taken an active role in preserving the principles of the Convention and in implementing its commitments as a State Party to the CCM.

As the Philippines prepares to take on the presidency of the Convention for the term 2024-2025, we stand ready to engage constructively with all the stakeholders to uphold the global norm against cluster munitions. At this critical stage in the history of the Convention, the Philippines is honored to be bestowed with the responsibility to carry the torch and will honor its commitments to the CCM, with a view to continue efforts toward a world free from the dangers of cluster munitions.

Thank you, Mister Vice President.