



**12th Meeting of the States Parties to the
Convention on Cluster Munitions
Geneva, 10-13 September 2024**

**Statement of the Federal Republic of Somalia
Presented by Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle (Director General of SEMA)**

Madam Chair, Honorable representatives, valued guests, ladies, and gentlemen,

Good Afternoon,

On behalf of the government of Somalia, I am honoured to provide an update on the status and progress regarding cluster munitions in Somalia.

May I take this opportunity to underscore that Somalia neither manufactures, nor uses, nor transfers, or stores cluster munitions. Since acceding to the convention, the country fully complies with the provisions of the cluster munitions convention by implementing all necessary legal, administrative, and other stipulated measures. Additionally, Somalia has not engaged in any activities prohibited by the convention.

Details regarding cluster munitions contamination in Somalia are still sparse. However, existing reports do point to their presence in specific areas, indicating that they were once deployed in previous conflicts.

Due to the lack of resources, and bilateral funding from the donor countries, a proper and comprehensive nationwide survey on cluster munition contamination has yet to be conducted. Nonetheless, the Somali Explosive Management Authority (SEMA) is currently collaborating with humanitarian mine action partners, to implement Non-Technical Surveys (NTS) in all accessible districts, in line with the requirements of other mine action conventions and national action plans.

Distinguished delegates,

In accordance with the Convention on Cluster Munition, the Somalia government is actively working to eliminate all known cluster munitions contamination within its borders. The commitment notwithstanding, it is unclear whether, and to what extent cluster munitions may be present within Somalia's territory. Efforts to survey are already underway.

However, the security, and political challenges have made some areas inaccessible to humanitarian mine action and government agencies. Additionally, the humanitarian mine action partners in Somalia are facing significant funding shortages, some of them forced to discontinue operations and withdraw from the country. The remaining active mine action partners who are limited significantly in operational coverage and in resources, are also uncertain of future funding beyond 2025. The progress of clearance activities and achieving convention milestones and commitments is now more at stake than ever, including in the context of cluster munitions.

Despite these challenges, the ongoing military operations against anti-government elements continue to bring hope to the Somali people, gradually recovering new areas of territories. This military offensive campaign has on the other hand led to a higher demand for mine action services in these newly accessible districts and villages. The recovery efforts by the government allied forces are expected to continue and expand, making it possible to restore access to some districts that have been isolated from the rest of the country for the last 15 years, with no access to government services and humanitarian assistance.

Against this backdrop of growing mine action needs, a shrinking capacity to respond, and the reduced resource allocation to mine action, the Somali government appeals for support from the international friends of Somalia, donors and partners, emphasizing the importance of the mine action program, to enable the safe return of the displaced population and support stabilization. Sustained funding and technical assistance are crucial for Somalia to fulfil its obligations under the Convention on Cluster Munitions and address the growing needs of the affected communities, especially in newly recovered areas.

Explosive hazards, including cluster munitions, continue to pose a significant threat to the lives and livelihoods of the civilians. It is imperative to eliminate

these dangers and transform them into opportunities, allowing the people of Somalia to live in a safe, secure, and prosperous environment.

Madam Chair,

As I close, and in accordance with the convention's requirements, our primary focus will be on these three courses of action: 1. to enhance surveys in contaminated areas, 2. provide risk education, and 3. clear known cluster munition sites. This will enable affected communities to improve their livelihoods and access unused roads and pasture lands without the fear of explosive ordnance and cluster munitions.

I Thank You!