

Statement on Clearance

*Convention on Cluster Munitions Intersessional meetings
Geneva, 7-8 April 2025*

Thank you, Chair,

We want to begin by thanking all States who are sharing updates on their clearance progress as well as challenges at this meeting. We also extend our appreciation to the Coordinators, the Implementation Support Unit, and the Analysis Group for their continued efforts to ensure the effective and timely implementation of Article 4.

We would like to thank affected States Parties Iraq and Mauritania, who have already submitted their respective Article 7 reports ahead of the deadline, along with transparent updates on the extent of remaining contamination and progress in releasing land.

While complete information from some States is still pending, we note that Afghanistan and Mauritania have reported a decrease in contamination, while Iraq and Lebanon have recorded an increase due to newly identified areas through ongoing survey efforts. At the same time, significantly less land has been released in Iraq, Lebanon, and Afghanistan, largely due to funding constraints. This trend is concerning, and we urge States Parties and donors to act urgently and identify ways to address these shortfalls.

We also urge all States Parties to remain fully committed to their clearance targets and to redouble efforts to finish clearance as soon as possible, so people can live free from the threat of cluster munitions and affected communities can begin to rebuild with safety and confidence.

Currently, ten States Parties remain contaminated. Four of these are known or believed to have less than 10km² of contamination and should be well positioned to complete clearance soon. However, the number of States Parties on track to meet their Article 4 deadlines appears to be shrinking. Only two—Somalia and South Sudan—are still operating under their original clearance deadlines, with Somalia asking for its first extension this year. All others have already requested one or more extensions.

We are also gravely concerned by the humanitarian consequences of ongoing conflicts, particularly the widespread and indiscriminate use of cluster munitions in Ukraine. These attacks continue to kill and injure civilians and create new

contamination that will require years of sustained clearance efforts. Operators and donors have mobilized swiftly to respond, but the scale of the problem continues to grow. Clearance must remain a long-term priority for the international community, including donors.

The Convention on Cluster Munitions exists to prevent and to respond to exactly these harms. States Parties must uphold their commitments under Article 4 and ensure clearance efforts are fully resourced and accelerated. Communities cannot wait.

Thank you.