



**DRAFT STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY SOUTH AFRICA AT THE INSESSIONAL MEETING  
OF THE 13<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF STATES PARTIES (MSP) OF THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER  
MUNITIONS (CCM)**

**AGENDA ITEM 3A- UNIVERSALISATION  
7 TO 8 APRIL 2025**

Mr President,

South Africa wishes to extend its congratulations to you on your election as President of the 13th Meeting of States Parties (MSP) to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. South Africa has no doubt that under your able stewardship, especially during these unprecedented and challenging times, the preparations for this MSP will yield positive outcomes.

South Africa aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the African Group.

Mr President,

We recognize that many challenges persist under this Convention, particularly the ongoing contamination of states with cluster munition remnants. In this regard, South Africa unequivocally condemns the use of cluster munitions by any state or other entity and calls on all states to consider to do the same.

We remain deeply concerned about the declining rate of ratifications and accessions, which has negatively impacted the universalization of the Convention. Of particular concern is the lack of ratification by states that hold large stockpiles of cluster munitions and continue to use them. South Africa calls for intensified efforts to engage those states that have not ratified to see the value of ratification as a means of their contribution to the safety of mankind and the environment that would ultimately lead to the world free of cluster munitions victims

Furthermore, South Africa encourages all States Parties to uphold their commitments to the CCM and to resist external pressures that may lead to withdrawal from the Convention.

South Africa has observed with concern the mounting geopolitical tensions in various regions, which have placed states under increasing pressure. In this regard, South Africa urges states facing such challenges to seek constructive solutions through dialogue within the established framework of the Convention.

While South Africa acknowledges that it is the sovereign right of states to determine their continued membership, we remain concerned about actions that may undermine the integrity and effectiveness of this crucial international instrument. Preserving the Convention's integrity is not only essential in mitigating the devastating humanitarian consequences of cluster

munitions, but also in strengthening our collective commitment to international peace and security.

Mr President,

South Africa was privileged to participate in the recent regional workshop in Southeast Asia, hosted by the Philippines. We were honoured to share our experiences regarding our destruction plan as part of a panel discussion. We were also encouraged by the presence of numerous non-State Parties at the workshop, underscoring the importance of sustained outreach efforts. In this regard, South Africa commend the Philippines for this important and timely initiative, which contributes significantly to expanding membership within Southeast Asia.

South Africa reaffirm its support for continued outreach under your leadership and remain committed to playing an active role, both in partnership with states and alongside civil society, towards achieving a world free of cluster munitions.

I thank you.

End.