

**NPA Statement on Agenda Item 3(j)(i): Emerging challenges to the norm prohibiting cluster munitions
Intersessional Meetings Convention on Cluster Munitions
Geneva, 7-8 April 2025**

**Delivered by
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Thank you, Mr. President,

First, let me express our appreciation for including this important discussion item on the agenda. We are indeed meeting at a time when the norms of international humanitarian law are under increasing pressure. The global norm and stigma against indiscriminate weapons, such as cluster munitions and anti-personnel mines, are facing unprecedented challenges. For the first time since the adoption of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, we have witnessed a State Party, Lithuania, to withdraw from the treaty that aims to protect civilians. This is deeply concerning. It has set a dangerous precedent, as we now also see several European countries considering to abandon the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. Such decisions threaten to erode the hard-won protections that these humanitarian treaties provide, protections that we have all been diligently working to achieve.

We urge all States Parties to do their utmost to protect the norm against the cluster munitions and stand firm by their commitments and legal obligations. Let us be reminded that the Convention still stands as strong as ever and continues to save lives and limbs every day and brings hope for a better life to affected communities.

The Convention on Cluster Munitions was adopted as a direct response to the severe civilian harm caused by these weapons and to prevent further humanitarian disaster. As we have heard just now, the need for the ban on cluster munitions was based on evidence. This evidence does not show us that cluster munitions will win a war or significantly enhance national defense, it shows us that these are indiscriminate and inhumane weapons with unacceptably high failure rates that kill and maim civilians long after conflicts end. We cannot allow that this evidence is disregarded or forgotten.

With the aim to remind the available evidence and to underscore that cluster munitions have not advanced and are still the same unacceptable weapons as before, I would like to take this opportunity to inform that NPA decided to relaunch its report from 2007 on the analysis of M85 reliability at the upcoming Meeting of States Parties in September. After consultations with our EOD experts, we are confident that this study is as relevant now as ever.

Thank you.