



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES



2025 Intersessional Meeting Convention on Cluster Munitions



Closing Statement of Ambassador Carlos D. Sorreta

Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Philippines to the
United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva

President of the 13th Meeting of the States Parties to the
Convention on Cluster Munitions



Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to all of you for your active participation, valuable insights, and continued commitment to the goals of our Convention.

You have demonstrated once again the strength of our shared resolve to end the suffering caused by these indiscriminate weapons. Through our interactive discussions, we have reaffirmed the importance of transparency, cooperation, and collective action—each a cornerstone of advancing the norms of our Convention.

When conventions are negotiated, they either create a full secretariat or place the responsibility of pursuing the norms of the convention fully in the hands of its state parties. Ours is the latter, we as state parties take full ownership. For this I am very grateful to the work of our coordinators.



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They help point all of us in the right direction and help ensure that obligations to the Convention are implemented and commitments are strengthened. They have put in a lot of work and are clearly determined to continue.

We did not create a full secretariat with large staff and enormous overhead and administrative costs - funds that could go directly to clearance or victim assistance.

We did not create a full secretariat, but what we do have is an Implementing Support Unit, dedicated and lean, very ably headed by Pamela Moraga, and I thank her for all her work, sometimes under difficult circumstances.

What we also have are our partners in civil society and other international governmental organizations, in particular UNMAS, UNODA and ICRC. Your voices remind us of the real human impact of our efforts, and your advocacy continues to inspire us to do better and hold us accountable.

To the mine clearance operators on the ground, it is your work that directly impacts the daily lives of the people in affected communities. We commend your dedication, courage, and technical expertise. You are the bridge between policy and impact, and your presence here has enriched our understanding of the challenges and progress in affected communities.



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And to the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining—thank you for your invaluable support that enabled the conduct of this Intersessional Meeting and for being a steadfast partner in advancing the objectives of this Convention.

Let us carry forward the momentum we've built in our discussions. Ahead of the 13th MSP, may our conversations for the past two days fuel continued progress, not only in words, but in tangible actions that move us closer to a world free of cluster munitions.

Thank you.