



**2025 Intersessional Meetings of the  
Convention on Cluster Munitions  
Geneva, 8-9 April 2025**

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

**Honourable representatives, valued guests, ladies, and gentlemen,**

Good afternoon. On behalf of the government of Somalia, I am honoured to get this opportunity to provide an overview of Somalia's Article 4 extension request regarding cluster munitions.

The Federal Republic of Somalia signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) on 3 December 2008, ratified it on 30 September 2015, and it entered into force for Somalia on 1 March 2016. Under Article 4 of the Convention, Somalia's clearance deadline is set for 1 March 2026.

At the time of entry into force, Somalia identified 8 contaminated areas. However, subsequent surveys have revealed an additional 6 areas. Through close collaboration with humanitarian mine action operators and international donors, we have successfully cleared two areas and canceled one. As a result, 11 contaminated areas remain.

On 4 December 2024, Somalia formally submitted its request for a four-year extension to the CCM Implementation Support Unit (ISU). The Analysis Group provided its initial feedback on 19 February 2025. In response, and in coordination with the CCM ISU, the Somalia Explosive Management Authority (SEMA) prepared and submitted an updated version of the extension request on 3th April.

Since entry into force of the Convention, Somalia has elapsed ten years and Somalia neither manufactures, transfers, nor stores cluster munitions. The country fully complies with the provisions of the cluster munitions convention by

implementing all necessary legal, administrative, and other measures. Additionally, Somalia has not engaged in any activities prohibited by the convention.

The Somali government, in collaboration with international partners, continue to make notable strides in enhancing the capabilities of the National Mine Action Authority (SEMA) to better serve those requiring mine action responses. Abilities in planning, information management, coordination and prioritization has significantly improved. Additionally, SEMA, in partnership with mine action partners in Somalia has recently reviewed the national mine action standards on survey and explosive ordnance risk education chapters which both are crucial to comply requirements of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

The Somali Explosive Management Authority (SEMA), in collaboration with humanitarian mine action partners, has prioritized Non-Technical Surveys (NTS) activity to assess the extent of the CMR in all accessible districts. From the areas surveyed so far, Somalia has recorded some hazard areas indicating the presence of CMR contaminations. Parallel to the NTS activities, mine action partners in Somalia have consistently been delivering explosive ordnance risk education to the wider communities residing in the conflict affected areas.

### **Excellencies, distinguished guest, ladies, and gentlemen**

**Challenges:** The security situation and political atmosphere in Somalia have made some area inaccessible to humanitarian mine action. Some parts of the country are still under active conflicts which could potentially cause fresh contaminations of explosive ordnance including ERW, landmines and an increasing prevalence of improvised explosive devices. These threats not only compromise safety but also hinder access to valuable land, affecting the livelihoods of many and threaten the peace, stability, and recovery of the country.

Additionally, the humanitarian mine action partners in Somalia have seriously been affected by the recurring shortage of funding, which many of them were forced to cease operations and withdraw the country – only one partner remained this year. SEMA is exerting efforts to get mine action into the Government budget and submitted the Mine Action Legislation to the Federal Parliament of Somalia for final approval.

## **Distinguished delegates,**

**Future plans:** Somalia has recently launched a National Transformation Plan (NTP 2025-2029) aiming to address systemic and structural challenges including weak institutional frameworks, limited resources and inadequate capacities, and persistent threats to national security from violent extremist groups that are obstructing movements. The plan is anticipated to bring an improved security environment, marked by reduced terrorism and conflict, which will enable Somalia to achieve both social and economic progress. The plan also includes financial sustainability, achieved through reduced donor dependency and efficient resource mobilisation by the government organs. Despite these challenges, the ongoing military operations against anti-government elements continue with the intention to recover more territories, which need survey activities to confirm the safety of the newly accessed areas.

Thus, the extension request is aligned to benefit from the wider National Strategies that appeal for support from Government and the international donors, emphasizing the importance of the mine action program which 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.

## **Distinguished Excellencies.**

During the next term of the convention, Somalia's primary focus on the requirements to enhance surveys in contaminated areas, provide risk education, and clear known cluster munition sites once the areas are made safe to access. This will enable affected communities to improve their livelihoods and access unused roads and pasture lands without the fear of explosive ordnance, including cluster munitions.

**In conclusion,** On behalf of the Government of Somalia, I extend our gratitude to the people and governments of donor countries, including Japan, the United Kingdom, Norway, and EU countries, Germany, the United States, the United Nations and the **People's Republic of China** for their contributions to the mine action program in Somalia. I would also like to express my deep appreciation to the CCM ISU, GICHD and the Mine Action Operators in the country for their support towards a Somalia free of mines and cluster munitions. We encourage their continued support and look forward to their partnerships.

Thank You!