

Statement by the State of Palestine

Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (13MSP)

Mr. President,

The State of Palestine expresses its appreciation to Ambassador Carlos D. Sorreta for his dedicated leadership as President of the Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. We assure you of our delegation's full support. We also extend our congratulations to the Implementation Support Unit, led by Ms. Pamela Moraga, for its excellent preparations, which are instrumental in guiding this meeting toward tangible results.

Mr. President,

It is deeply deplorable that cluster munitions are still being used as tools of war, killing and maiming innocent civilians. We call for the immediate cessation of all use, transfer, and production of these indiscriminate weapons. Their continued existence and deployment undermine international humanitarian law.

The State of Palestine acceded to the Convention on Cluster Munitions in 2015, guided by the conviction that universalizing disarmament conventions strengthens the international disarmament and arms control regime, enhances compliance with international humanitarian law, and advances accountability for violations, including the use of weapons prohibited under international law.

Mr. President,

Due of the prolonged illegal Israeli occupation, the State of Palestine cannot exercise full jurisdiction or control over its territory. Consequently, in our transparency reports, we are unable to confirm whether the occupying power has stockpiles of cluster munitions in occupied Palestinian territory or whether it has created areas contaminated with unexploded ordnance, including cluster munitions. The genocide that Israel has been perpetrating in Gaza for the last 23 months, killing over 60,000 civilians, has made use of a wide range of weapons, and an independent investigation is urgently needed into the types and origins of all weapons used to commit war crimes, crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing, and genocide.

Nevertheless, and despite these challenges, the State of Palestine remains committed to clearance activities, particularly in areas posing the greatest threat to civilian life. We view

these life-saving efforts as a humanitarian obligation and a contribution to the Convention's objectives. We stress that these efforts to save lives and end human suffering must not be exploited by Israel, the occupying Power, to further expand its illegal settlements into these cleared areas.

Mr. President,

We encourage the Coordination Committee and the Coordinator on Transparency Measures to give special attention and assistance to States Parties that do not possess stockpiles of cluster munitions. These States, despite lacking stockpiles, remain committed to upholding the Convention's objectives and should be supported in fulfilling their reporting obligations in an accurate and meaningful manner.

We also invite the Coordinators on Universalization to consider convening a regional event in the Middle East ahead of the Third Review Conference in 2026, and preferably before the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties. Such a meeting would support efforts to build regional momentum toward broader adherence to the Convention.

Mr. President,

We urge all States that have not yet done so to accede to the Convention without delay. The CCM is a vital instrument that complements and reinforces international humanitarian law. Its universalization is essential to reducing human suffering and protecting civilians, particularly in times of armed conflict.

We further encourage the Coordination Committee to initiate a structured and sustained dialogue with States not Party to the Convention, particularly those that are major producers and exporters of cluster munitions, their delivery systems, and relevant components. Engagement with these States is essential to closing the legal and humanitarian gaps that the Convention seeks to address.

In closing, the State of Palestine reaffirms its full commitment to the international rules-based order. We believe this order is indispensable to achieving freedom, justice, and lasting peace for all peoples. We stand ready to contribute to a successful outcome of this meeting and to work with all partners toward the effective implementation and universalization of the Convention.

I thank you.