



Geneva, 08 September 2025

REF: The Republic of Vanuatu accedes to the Convention on Cluster Munitions

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Colleagues,

I have the honour to address you in my capacity as President of the Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties (13MSP) to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, to inform you that the **Republic of Vanuatu deposited its instrument of accession** with the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 5 September 2025.

It is with great pleasure that I warmly welcome the Republic of Vanuatu as the 112th State Party to the Convention. This accession represents an important step towards universalization and reaffirms our shared commitment to ending the suffering caused by cluster munitions, ensuring assistance to victims, and preventing future harm.

By joining at this time, Vanuatu demonstrates that the protection of civilians from inhumane weapons and their indiscriminate effects is a universal responsibility. Its decision reflects principled solidarity with affected States and a clear affirmation of the primacy of international humanitarian law in a period of global distress. Pacific Island States such as Vanuatu show that, regardless of size or circumstance, all States have a vital role to play in reinforcing humanitarian norms and strengthening the legitimacy of the Convention.

This accession is therefore not only a contribution to universalization, but also a signal of resilience and leadership that adds weight to the global humanitarian movement against cluster munitions.

I take this opportunity to encourage all Signatory States, as well as those not yet Party, to ratify or accede to the Convention without delay.

I look forward to officially welcoming the Republic of Vanuatu at the Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties (13MSP), to be held in Geneva from 16 to 19 September 2025.

With the assurances of my highest consideration.

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 States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions