

**Cluster Munitions Convention**  
**13th Meeting of States Parties**  
**16.-19.9.2025**

**General Statement by Austria**

*Check against delivery*

Mr. President,

We align ourselves with the statement by the European Union.

This Meeting of States Parties marks 15 years, during which the Convention on Cluster Munitions has saved countless lives and reduced the threat of cluster munitions for civilians worldwide. In its 15 years of existence, the CCM has proven to be one of the most effective instruments of humanitarian disarmament, as the Cluster Munitions Monitor demonstrates. Two-thirds of the world's countries now adhere to its values; global producers have decreased by a third; and States Parties have collectively destroyed nearly 1.5 million cluster munitions and 179 million submunitions, ensuring these weapons will never be used again. Survivors and affected families and communities have continuously received assistance, while still more needs to be done to ensure that their rights can be met. In 2024 alone, a record 227.9 km<sup>2</sup> of contaminated land was cleared, and more than 133,000 unexploded submunitions were destroyed – the highest annual figure to date. Lao PDR's clearance of 71.7 km<sup>2</sup> set a new global record, demonstrating what can be achieved with sustained commitment and resources. These achievements need to be preserved.

We commend the accession of Vanuatu to the Convention. With now 112 States Parties and further concerted efforts towards universalization, we take another step towards a world free of cluster munitions.

Mr. President,

Fifteen years after its entry into force, however, the Convention on Cluster Munitions faces serious new challenges.

In 2024, new victims were reported, from cluster munitions attacks as well as cluster munitions remnants from previous armed conflicts.

Europe is confronted by a brutal and the illegal war of aggression waged by Russia against Ukraine. The extensive use of cluster munitions in Ukraine has caused hundreds of civilian deaths, widespread displacement, and massive contamination of farmland. Reports of further use in, for example, Myanmar and Syria underscore the urgent need to reaffirm and defend the norm against these inherently indiscriminate weapons.

Austria condemns all and any use of cluster munitions by any actor and under any circumstances. Documented use of cluster munitions by States not Party to the Convention and non-state actors are a grave concern.

For the first time in the Convention's history, we have also witnessed a State Party withdraw. And a number of States have withdrawn from the "sister" Convention of the CCM, the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

Mr. President,

As we look towards the Third Review Conference in 2026 in Lao PDR, this will be a critical opportunity to not only celebrate achievements, but also to respond decisively and reaffirm that the norm against cluster munitions remains strong.

We are deeply concerned about the impact that withdrawals as well as the continued use, production, transfer and stockpiling of cluster munitions have for the stigma against cluster munitions that this Convention has built over the past decade and a half. The CCM community needs to firmly safeguard its norms from erosion. There is a clear risk that the remarkable humanitarian progress made could be reversed, which would have disastrous consequences for civilians.

Our humanitarian disarmament treaties have been making a difference, and most critically so when civilians are most at risk, during armed conflict. The CCM has been established to reduce human suffering and contribute to ensuring a minimum of human dignity and human rights during war, based on the collective understanding that cluster munitions cause unacceptable harm. We underline our firm understanding that the Convention on Cluster Munitions makes an important contribution to our security and to the safety and security of our own population and is therefore firmly rooted in our national foreign and security policy.

Austria commends the UN Secretary General for launching the global campaign on humanitarian disarmament and mine action to engage Member States on the importance of upholding and preserving the norms and principles of the humanitarian disarmament treaties and to promote

mine action as an enabler for sustainable peace, development and the full enjoyment of human rights. Austria is honoured to support this campaign.

We reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the Convention on Cluster Munitions and call upon all States not yet party to join this landmark treaty, to protect civilians, uphold international law, and preserve this important humanitarian achievement for future generations.

Thank you.