

**Asia-Pacific Statement, Cluster Munition Coalition**  
**13th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions**  
*Geneva, 16-19 September 2025*

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Mr President, Excellencies, Friends,

1. From the Asia-Pacific, we bring a message of both hope and urgency. We warmly congratulate **Vanuatu**, the newest State Party to the Convention. By joining, Vanuatu has shown the world the right path—choosing life, dignity, and peace over weapons that spread death. At a time when some have turned their backs on this Convention, Vanuatu's decision reminds us all of the power of courage and the importance of standing on the side of humanity.
2. Our message today is clear: **cluster munitions are banned, and they must remain banned**. They are not just another weapon. They are a cruel and indiscriminate tool of war that continues to kill and maim long after battles have ended, often harming children at play or farmers in their fields. There are no conditions, no excuses, no exceptions for their use.
3. We call for an **independent investigation** into the use of cluster munitions inside the Thai-Cambodian border, which have apparently been acknowledged. We deeply regret the harm to livelihoods and the displacement of border populations on both sides, which affects all but is especially traumatic for those already disabled by weapons of war.
4. We also call on all parties to conflicts to strictly respect **International Humanitarian Law**. To uphold IHL is not only to meet a legal duty—it is also to walk a **path towards peace**. Every time civilians are spared, every time dignity is upheld, trust is restored and the possibility of reconciliation grows.
5. In our region, we take note of the **confidence-building efforts of ASEAN**, particularly between **Thailand and Cambodia**, which provide an encouraging example of dialogue and cooperation in the midst of tension. These efforts should inspire further peacebuilding across the Asia-Pacific.
6. At the same time, we cannot ignore the suffering of people in **Myanmar, Gaza, Ukraine, and Manipur in India and in many conflict areas**, where civilians continue to pay the highest price of conflict. Their struggles remind us of the urgent need for stronger humanitarian protections, accountability for violations, and international solidarity.
7. Coming from Asia-Pacific region, we stand firm: we will continue to push for the universalization of this Convention, for its promise to be kept. Our call is simple but urgent: let us **ban these weapons forever, protect civilians everywhere, and walk together towards peace built on dignity, justice, and humanity**.

Thank you.