

**CMC Statement on International Cooperation and Assistance**  
*13th Meeting of States Parties of the Convention on Cluster Munitions*  
*Geneva, 16-19 September 2025*

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Thank you, Mr. President,

Article 6 on international cooperation and assistance remains at the heart of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, representing the shared will and commitment of States parties to put an end to the suffering caused by cluster munitions. The generous support of States Parties under this provision has played a fundamental role in advancing the Convention's goals and led to tangible successes: eleven States Parties have now fulfilled their clearance obligations, and all cluster munition stockpiles among States Parties have been destroyed. These achievements are the direct result of sustained international cooperation and a testament to what can be accomplished when States work together for a common purpose.

The Lausanne Action Plan, agreed by States Parties for the period 2021-2026, represented a bold vision for significant and sustainable progress towards universalization and implementation. By agreeing to actions 38 to 42 of the plan, States Parties committed to providing the necessary resources to ensure affected States could fulfill their obligations in a timely manner. However, despite these ambitions, only one State Party, Bosnia and Herzegovina, has achieved completion so far during this five-year period. Progress has slowed and many States Parties are struggling to complete clearance, despite having only small to medium levels of contamination.

In recent years we have seen a worrying decline in support for several States Parties. International funding for mine action has decreased significantly in Afghanistan since 2022, impacting its ability to address cluster munition contamination. Iraq has also seen a substantial drop in funding. Other States Parties, such as Chad, have struggled to attract funding, and State Party Chile, which has funded its own clearance of cluster munition contamination has seen national funds decrease since the Covid 19 pandemic.

This year we have also witnessed the United States, the single largest funder of mine action, imposing a sector-wide funding freeze and review, stalling some cluster munition clearance programs and terminating others. Other major donors, including States Parties to this convention, have reduced, or are considering reducing their mine action funding to divert to other priorities, including increased defense spending.

There is a direct link between declining funding, a lack of progress in clearance, and renewed requests for extensions to Article 4 deadlines. Timely completion will only happen if the required funding can be sourced, something States Parties should bear in mind when considering the extension requests presented at this Meeting of States Parties. Of the ten affected States Parties, only South Sudan, our most recent State Party, remains within its original deadline for clearance, a clear signal of the urgent need for renewed international support and stronger coordination mechanisms to ensure all State Parties receive the support they need.

Risk education and victim assistance, already under-resourced, have been negatively impacted by these funding reductions and terminations. In countries like Afghanistan, reduced international funding has led to major cuts in victim services and limited progress on gender mainstreaming, diversity, inclusion, and localization.

In light of the decline in funding and stalled progress, it is crucial for States Parties to renew their commitment to the Convention on Cluster Munitions by strengthening financial support, coordination, and resource mobilization. Only through united and sustained action can we fulfill our moral and legal obligations, ensure affected communities receive the assistance they need, and ultimately achieve a world free from the devastation of cluster munitions.

Thank you.