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United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions

Statement under agenda item 8 – General Exchange of Views

Geneva, 16 September 2025

Delivered by UNMAS

Mr. President,¹

As this is my first time taking the floor, I would like to extend my congratulations to you and to the Philippines on assuming the Presidency of the Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). You can count on the full support of the United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA)², on behalf of which I am delivering this statement.

Excellencies,

The proliferation of armed conflicts has led to an exponential increase in explosive ordnance contamination. Cluster munitions, often deployed indiscriminately and covering wide areas, continue to maim, kill, and pose long-term threats to civilians, particularly in densely populated areas. Explosives that fail to detonate immediately remain hidden in homes, fields, and public spaces—lurking hazards that kill and injure innocent civilians, with children often

¹ Ambassador Carlos D. Sorreta, Permanent Representative of the Philippines.

² The United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action consists of twelve United Nations Departments and Offices of the Secretariat, specialized agencies, funds and programmes: the United Nations Mine Action Service of the Department of Peace Operations, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and the World Bank are observers.



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disproportionally affected. Danger from explosive remnants of war persists long after fighting has ceased, seriously inhibiting the rebuilding of lives and economies.

The Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences Arising from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas represents a critical step forward in preventing widespread and indiscriminate contamination. The Secretary-General calls upon States to universally endorse and fully implement this declaration.

Amidst heightened geopolitical tensions and widespread conflict, the Secretary-General further urges the international community to reaffirm its commitment to humanitarian disarmament with his global campaign, launched on 16 June, to uphold all humanitarian disarmament norms, to accelerate mine action as an enabler of human rights and sustainable development, and to drive forward the vision of a world free of explosive ordnance. Full adherence, implementation and universalization of the Convention on Cluster Munitions must remain a global priority.

In the meantime, while armed conflict and its fallout threaten increased numbers of people around the world, robust mine action programming—integrated across humanitarian, early recovery and development efforts with meaningful engagement of affected people and local actors—is the only viable path to counter the scourge of explosive hazards. Such programming requires predictable, adequate, and flexible funding, and the sustained, resourced and politically engaged support of national mine action authorities, ministries and counterparts.

I urge all Member States to reinforce these efforts through national, multilateral, and innovative actions, ensuring that both emerging crises and long-standing contexts receive support.



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Finally, I wish to pay tribute to our colleagues who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the pursuit of a safer world. The deaths and injuries of United Nations, national, NGO and commercial mine action colleagues serve as a solemn reminder of the perilous conditions under which mine action is carried out. Their dedication underscores the life-saving nature of this work and its essential role in enabling safe, sustainable, lives, development and future opportunities for affected communities.

Thank you.

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