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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 10 (c)

Clearance and Destruction of Cluster Munitions Remnants

Geneva, 17 September 2025

Delivered by UNDP

Mr. President,¹ Excellencies,

The following statement is delivered on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA) comprising the United Nations entities involved in mine action.²

Excellencies,

The United Nations welcomes the Mine Action Review “[Clearing Cluster Munitions Remnants 2025](#)” report, which records that global clearance of cluster munition-contaminated area totaled 227 km² (the equivalent of 32,500 soccer fields) in 2024, an increase of almost 18% on the previous record. The amount of clearance is both laudable for how many people it serves, and tragic that hundreds of thousands of people are still facing the threat of cluster munitions on a daily basis.

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) is an observer.



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The United Nations acknowledges the extension requests submitted under Article 4 of the Convention. These requests reflect the significant challenges that persist in clearing cluster munition remnants and ensuring compliance with treaty obligations, as well as the steadfast commitment by States afflicted with cluster munitions to the provisions of the CCM.

In 2024, the **Lao PDR** increased clearance outputs with more land cleared and munitions destroyed than in any other year on record, thanks to consistent funding from donors, the engagement of the Army, and the commitment of the government to deliver long term solutions for impacted communities. The National Regulatory Authority for UXO went through a 'fit-for-purpose' review resulting in a more cost-efficient and effective national authority focused on delivering a nationally owned and managed solution to massive contamination. The UN is proud to support such operational pragmatism. We congratulate the Lao PDR on clearing 71 km², the highest recorded in a State in a single year since the adoption of the Convention on Cluster Munitions in 2008.

In **Somalia**, obligations under the CCM are being advanced through the work of the national authority and its international partners — The HALO Trust, GICHD, iMMAP, and UNMAS — which have established a formal coordination structure to avoid duplication and strengthen national mine action capacity. Joint efforts focus on enhancing information management systems for improved planning, providing technical and operational support to increase effectiveness, building quality assurance capacity to ensure safe and reliable mine action, and strengthening internal administrative systems for long-term sustainability. While these initiatives are vital for compliance and for safeguarding communities, persistent insecurity, reduced humanitarian mine action presence, and limited access to contaminated areas continue to



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significantly constrain survey and clearance operations. As a result, communities remain exposed to risk, and Somalia's progress toward fully meeting its treaty obligations is delayed.

In **Afghanistan**, cluster munitions remnants contamination remains extensive with 16 confirmed hazardous areas covering 9 km² (almost 1,300 soccer fields) in four provinces. The Directorate of Mine Action Coordination and Mine Action Technical Cell are developing new national standards for cluster munition survey to enhance operational efficiency and release all recorded areas before the deadline of 28 February 2029. There is trained capacity in Afghanistan, and the teams can be reassembled to release all areas, as soon as the required funding is secured.

In **South Sudan**, in 2024, the UN - managing the Information Management System for Mine Action on behalf of the National Mine Action Authority – updated the methodology for estimating the size of cluster strike areas, based on historical data. As a result, the estimated contamination increased from 5 km² in 2023 to 9 km². New cluster munition-contaminated areas continue to be identified, and plans developed for potential clearance operations. However, armed clashes continue to delay progress by restricting access and raising concerns over potential recontamination.

In **Syria**, where CM contamination is not yet fully measured but expected to be severe, poor access to trauma and emergency care for teams implementing non-technical survey and clearance interventions remains an impediment for partners seeking to scale up response.

In **Lebanon**, the UN welcomes the Committee's comments on the extension request and looks forward to working with the new Mine Action Director to accelerate clearance.



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The UN is proud to work with local and national partners to prioritize clearance of areas that enable safe returns of displaced populations and socio-economic recovery, aligned with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. We reiterate the utmost importance of timely, effective and efficient clearance and urge those State Parties with continued CM contamination to redouble their clearance and destruction efforts.

END