

**NPA Statement on Agenda Item 8: General exchange of views  
13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties Convention on Cluster Munitions  
Geneva, 16-19 September 2025**

**Delivered by  
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Thank you, Mr. President,

The Convention on Cluster Munitions was born out of the shared commitment of states, international organizations, and civil society to address the severe humanitarian impact and unacceptable civilian harm caused by these indiscriminate weapons. Its adoption came just in time to avert the next global humanitarian crisis like the one witnessed due to the widespread use of anti-personnel mines. The Convention and its framework have built a stigma against the use of cluster munitions and driven significant progress in clearing contaminated land and advancing efforts to prevent future harm to civilians. According to this year's Mine Action Review report, the cluster munition remnants clearance output has reached another annual record.

Yet, we are living in times when the world is facing a surge in violence not seen in decades, 2024 has seen the highest number of conflict-related deaths in 70 years, we are witnessing blatant disregard to IHL, with civilians even becoming direct targets. We must ask: how can states justify abandoning frameworks specifically designed to protect civilians from such harm? Let us be clear, this goes far beyond the CCM or APMBC - it reflects a deeply concerning development where norms seem to be followed when convenient but abandoned by certain states precisely when they are put to test and most needed. Today's increased security threats concern us all, but so should the following long-lasting suffering of civilians, if we let humanitarian principles to be sidelined and allow indiscriminate weapons to be used without consequence.

As one of the largest clearance operators with decades long experience in dealing with cluster munitions and other explosive ordnance, NPA witnesses daily the devastating and long-term impacts such indiscriminate weapons have on local communities. We can testify that the danger these weapons pose is still as relevant as before. The experiences of those affected must remain central to any discussion on this matter. The reports of new and continued use of cluster munitions by states not party to the Convention only underscore the need to increase efforts on its universalization, but also to lead by example and work collectively on strengthening the frameworks for protection of civilians.

Next year will be marked by the Third Review Conference hosted by the incoming Presidency of Lao PDR, a country that knows much about the complexities of dealing with the consequences of cluster munitions. The Review Conference will be a new milestone for the Convention, which will once again set the course for how we implement this treaty in the coming five years. It is of great importance that such a meeting is held in an affected country. We stand ready to support the process so that we can achieve the strongest possible outcome and address the challenges that lie ahead of us.

Now is a critical time for States Parties to stand firm in protecting civilians from indiscriminate weapons and to oppose any attempts to weaken the humanitarian disarmament norms they collectively established. Especially in times of conflict and increased security threats, the safety and dignity of civilians must remain the highest priority.

Thank you.