

**NPA Statement on Agenda Item 10(a): Universalization
13th Meeting of States Parties Convention on Cluster Munitions
Geneva, 16-19 September 2025**

**Delivered by
Dagmar Matúšů, Policy Advisor**

Thank you, Mr. President,

Ensuring universal adherence to humanitarian disarmament conventions is essential to strengthening global norms against the use of weapons that cause indiscriminate harm and long-lasting suffering. These conventions—such as the CCM and those banning anti-personnel mines and nuclear weapons—are not just legal instruments; they are expressions of shared human values and commitments to protect civilians, uphold human dignity, and promote sustainable peace.

As more states join and implement these conventions, their legitimacy and effectiveness strengthen. Universal adherence helps close legal and moral gaps, and it sends a powerful message that the international community stands united against weapons that violate humanitarian principles.

NPA would therefore like to warmly congratulate Vanuatu on its accession to the CCM. In a time when certain states are moving away from international commitments, it is both encouraging and commendable to see Vanuatu demonstrate leadership and courage. Their decision sends a strong signal of support for IHL and the protection of basic human rights—norms that are increasingly under pressure.

The fact that some states remain outside the Convention cannot be seen as a justification for others to refrain from joining, for States Parties to not adhere, or even to contemplate withdrawal. More than ever, we need states to stand up for a rules-based international order that underpins global peace and security.

Universalization of the Convention is critical to reinforcing the global stigma against cluster munitions. It enables us to collectively address the devastating legacy these weapons leave behind and to commit to a future where their use is no longer tolerated. This is not just about disarmament—it's about creating a world that places human safety, dignity, and justice at its core.

We strongly encourage other states to follow Vanuatu's example. We also hope that the upcoming Review Conference in Lao PDR will serve as a catalyst for regional progress, inspiring new accessions and renewed commitment to the Convention.

Thank you.