



Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties to the
Convention on Cluster Munitions
16-19 September 2025

Agenda Item 10 (a): Universalization



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and Other International Organizations in Geneva

Thank you, Mr. President.

Our delegation extends its gratitude to the Coordinators, Peru and Norway, for presenting important work undertaken by the Working Group on Universalization. In my national capacity, I also take this opportunity to extend the Philippines' appreciation for the work of the Presidency in the advancement of the Convention's universalization.

Promoting the universalization of the CCM is an obligation of all States Parties. While the Philippines neither used nor kept a stockpile of cluster munitions, we are committed to the universalization of the Convention. Since becoming a State Party to the Convention, the Philippines has been actively promoting universalization. In 2019, under the Presidency of Sri Lanka, the Philippines, in partnership with the ISU, held a universalization workshop in Manila for Southeast Asia and Pacific Island States, which were not States Parties to the CCM. It was followed by an outreach in 2020 for ASEAN Member States through a webinar with ASEAN defense and military officials.



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Earlier this year, the 13MSP Presidency, in partnership with the ISU and the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, held another workshop for Southeast Asia and Pacific States. The 2025 Regional Workshop aimed to, not only promote the Convention's universalization, but also to discuss the challenges to the Convention's implementation, as well as threats to its norms and principles.

Our delegation hopes that these efforts to advance the CCM's universalization will be sustained, and we look forward to supporting the Presidency of the Third Review Conference in following through with the initiatives previously undertaken.

Mr. President,

The Philippines reiterates its warm congratulations to the Republic of Vanuatu for becoming the 112th State Party to the Convention. As a community, we call on States Parties to lend their support and assistance to Vanuatu in their initial steps to comply with their obligations to the Convention.

Our delegation deeply regrets the withdrawal of Lithuania from the Convention. This decision is a serious threat to the Convention's universalization and an act that undermines the humanitarian norms and principles of the CCM.



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Lastly, beyond the crucial objective of increasing the number of States Parties to the Convention, our delegation commends efforts on preventing further withdrawals from the Convention. Such is an important endeavor given the aforementioned unprecedented setback to the Convention. It is during these times that we must stand in solidarity and protect the norms espoused by the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Thank you, Mr. President.