



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

Agenda Item IO (d): Risk Reduction Education



Delivered by Ms. Hannah Zulayka L. Abubakar  
Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations Office  
and Other International Organizations in Geneva

Thank you, Mr. President.

Our delegation extends its gratitude to Lao PDR as Coordinator for Explosive Ordnance Risk Education for presenting the initiatives, progress, as well as challenges in implementing risk reduction education within the framework of the CCM.

As one of the key pillars of mine action, risk reduction education plays an indispensable role in fostering safer behaviors and reducing the risk of death and injury from landmines, cluster munitions, and other explosive remnants of war.

The Philippines adopts a whole-of-community approach to risk reduction education. Both the military and civilian actors benefit from mine awareness programs, risk education training sessions, and demining workshops conducted by the government in partnership with civil society organizations.





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In 2022, during the transition of the autonomous government in Southern Philippines from decades-long armed conflict towards self-governance, the Philippine government, in collaboration with Fondation Suisse de Deminage and the Philippine Campaign to Ban Landmines, organized a risk education and demining workshop. This program involved police, military, representatives of ceasefire mechanisms, and international and local peace partners, with the aim of reducing the dangers posed by unexploded landmines, artillery, and mortar shells left behind after decades of armed conflict.

The program has since expanded to include mine and unexploded ordnance (UXO) risk education, as well as the development of local capacities in UXO clearance and in explosives and weapons stockpile management. In that same year, a total of 9,434 residents in conflict-affected communities benefited from 258 EORE sessions.

Mr. President,

Limited and uncertain funding threatens the sustainability of EORE programs. Our delegation, therefore, calls on States Parties and the broader international community to lend their full support to risk education efforts in affected communities. While halting the use, production, stockpiling, and transfer of cluster munitions is essential to their total elimination, EORE remains a vital measure to reduce unnecessary suffering and protect lives from the devastating legacy of these indiscriminate weapons.





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Through community engagement, public information campaigns, and training, EORE empowers at-risk communities to make informed decisions and protect themselves. For populations living in post-conflict and contaminated areas, risk education is not only about immediate safety—it is about preserving lives, mitigating social and economic harm, and laying the foundation for sustainable peace and development.

Thank you, Mr. President.