



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

Agenda Item IO (e): Victim Assistance



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 Panama, as Coordinator on Victim Assistance, for presenting a detailed report on the implementation of Article 5.

The Convention's provisions on victim assistance address not only the physical impact of cluster munitions but also the social, economic, and psychological harm caused by these indiscriminate weapons. By shifting from socio-economic reintegration to inclusion, the CCM urges us to confront structural barriers that exclude victims and to ensure their full participation in society.

We call on all States to recognize the wide-ranging direct and indirect effects of cluster munitions. Victims include not only the injured, but also families and communities affected by contamination, suffering psychological trauma, economic loss, social marginalization, and violations of rights.





## 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions 17 September 2025

### Agenda Item 10 (e): Victim Assistance

Mr. President,

While the Philippines has no reported victims of cluster munitions, our delegation fully supports the efforts towards the fulfillment of Article 5 obligations. Our national agencies have considerable experience in assisting victims of explosive remnants of war, having developed robust institutions to address disability, marginalization, and trauma due to decades of internal conflicts in the country.

In 2022, the Philippines enacted legislation that compensates the victims of a five-month-long armed conflict in Southern Philippines, which resulted in the deaths of hundreds and the displacement of around 400,000 people. The legislation mandated the entitlement to monetary compensation of the victims and the establishment of a compensation board that allowed the heirs of those who died from the conflict to claim compensation.

The Philippines also cooperates with the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center and civil society partners to provide medical care and mental health support to survivors. As a State Party to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, we uphold the principle of non-discrimination and ensure persons with disabilities—including those injured by explosive ordnance—are not socially excluded.





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Children account for almost half of the casualties of cluster munitions. Our delegation strongly supports the protection of children from the impact of these indiscriminate weapons. The Philippines has strengthened the protection of children who are victims of violence and are in armed conflicts. We work closely with the UN on the implementation of our legislation providing for the special protection of children in situations of armed conflict, which prioritizes the best interest of children as victims and ensures that children victims are entitled to reparation and services such as psychosocial support, health, education, and livelihood.

Article 5 lies at the heart of the Convention, making it both a humanitarian and disarmament treaty of high regard. We urge States Parties to adopt comprehensive, inclusive, and context-sensitive approaches to victim assistance, with attention to gender considerations.

The Philippines reaffirms its commitment to Article 5 and stands ready to collaborate with the Coordinator, fellow States Parties, and civil society partners and share our experiences and best practices to strengthen support for victims.

Thank you, Mr. President.