



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

Agenda Item 8: General Exchange of Views



Delivered by Mr. Felipe F. Cariño III
Acting Deputy Permanent Representative,
Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations Office
and Other International Organizations in Geneva

Thank you, Mr. President.

Allow me to begin by expressing our delegation's appreciation to Ambassador Carlos D. Sorreta for his leadership and stewardship of the Convention on Cluster Munitions over the past year. The Philippines also extends its gratitude to the Implementation Support Unit for its tireless work in assisting States Parties to the Convention, and to the Coordinators for their initiatives to further strengthen the Convention.

At the heart of the Philippines' support to the CCM lies our country's constitutional renunciation of war as an instrument of national policy, our unwavering commitment to International Humanitarian Law, and our principled pursuit of humanitarian disarmament. Consistent with our promotion of the humanitarian norms enshrined in the Convention and our position on landmines and incendiary weapons, we condemn the use of cluster munitions by any actor under any circumstances.



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Mr. President,

The Convention on Cluster Munitions is both a landmark achievement of humanitarian disarmament and a vital pillar of global efforts to reduce human suffering. Our delegation warmly welcomes the Republic of Vanuatu's accession to the CCM, bringing the number of States Parties back to 112. At a time when the norms and principles of the Convention are under strain, Vanuatu's accession reaffirms the humanitarian significance of the CCM. It further demonstrates that all States—irrespective of size or circumstance—can play a decisive role in confronting the devastating humanitarian impact of cluster munitions and in upholding the Convention's legitimacy.

Earlier this year, the Philippines was honored to host, in Manila, the Southeast Asia and Pacific Regional Workshop on the CCM in partnership with the Presidency and the ISU. We were pleased to support Vanuatu's participation in this exchange, fostering collaboration, technical knowledge, and capacity in implementing the Convention and mine action. We call on all States Parties, and the wider international community, to extend their full support to Vanuatu as it fulfills its CCM commitments.



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Mr. President,

The Convention now faces its gravest challenge since its adoption. A withdrawal from the CCM is a serious setback, undermining our collective commitment to reducing the humanitarian toll of cluster munitions and threatening the hard-won progress achieved over the past decade.

The Philippines deeply regrets these threats to universalization, as well as the continued use of cluster munitions. We call on all States to recognize that the impact of these indiscriminate weapons far outweighs any perceived military advantage. Their devastating effects endure for decades—destroying lives, crippling communities, and impeding socio-economic development for generations.

As we look ahead to the Third Review Conference, the Philippines stands ready to engage constructively with all the stakeholders to uphold the global norm against cluster munitions. At this critical stage in the history of the Convention, our community should work together to uphold the norms of the Convention and ensure a world free of cluster munitions.

Thank you, Mr. President.