



**13 Meetings of the State Parties
Convention on Cluster Munitions
Geneva, 16-19 September 2025**

**Statement of the Federal Republic of Somalia
Presented by Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle (Director General of SEMA)**

Slide 1: Title – CCM First Extension Request (1 March 2026 – 1 March 2030)

“Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,
It is my great honor to address you today on behalf of the Somali Explosive Management Authority (SEMA).

We are here to present Somalia’s first extension request under Article 4 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, covering the period from March 2026 to March 2030.

This request is not simply a technical requirement. It reflects Somalia’s determination to uphold international humanitarian commitments, protect its people, and move closer to a safer, more stable future free from the legacy of explosive hazards.”

Slide 2: Introduction and Background

“To fully understand Somalia’s request, it is important to recall our history and the context in which explosive contamination emerged.

- In 1964, Somalia experienced its first border war with Ethiopia, followed later by the Ogaden war of 1977–1978.
- The collapse of the central government in 1991 triggered decades of civil war, fragmentation, and humanitarian suffering.
- International peacekeeping interventions, including UNITAF and UNOSOM, attempted to stabilize the country during the 1990s.
- From 2006 onward, conflicts involving the Islamic Courts Union, followed by Al-Shabaab and more recently ISIS affiliates, have continued to impact our nation.

This prolonged instability has not only displaced millions of our people but has also left behind the hidden danger of explosive remnants of war, including cluster

munition contamination. Addressing this contamination is not only a treaty obligation but a matter of humanitarian necessity and national security.”



Slide 3: Current Situation

“Despite decades of conflict, Somalia has taken notable steps toward building strong national capacity for mine action.

- The Somali Explosive Management Authority, or SEMA, is now a fully functioning national mine action authority. It operates from headquarters in Mogadishu with established sub-offices across five federal member states
- A National Mine Action Bill is currently under consideration in our Parliament, a milestone that will provide a legal foundation for sustained mine action efforts.
- Our National Mine Action Standards are being continuously reviewed and updated to align with international best practices.
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- At present, HALO Trust remains the only organization conducting survey and clearance operations in Somalia. We value their partnership greatly.
- Somali security forces, including the army and police, are being trained in Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Improvised Explosive Device Disposal by UNMAS. This investment in national capacity is crucial to ensuring that Somalia itself takes ownership of explosive hazard response.

These achievements show that Somalia is not standing still. Progress is being made step by step even in a complex security environment.”

Slide 4: Challenges

“Nevertheless, we must be realistic about the difficulties we continue to face.

- First and foremost is access. Many areas suspected of cluster munition contamination remain inaccessible due to ongoing insecurity.
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- Secondly, Somalia faces persistent funding challenges. The overall footprint of humanitarian mine action organizations has declined, limiting our reach and capacity.



- Thirdly, Somalia lacks a nationwide comprehensive survey, meaning the full extent of contamination is still unknown in several regions.
- In addition, prolonged insecurity continues to limit access and slows progress, despite Somalia's commitment to meeting its treaty obligations.
- Finally, SEMA itself, faces both financial and institutional capacity gaps. These need to be addressed if we are to fully shoulder our responsibilities.

These challenges explain why Somalia requires an extension period. They are also a call for sustained international solidarity.”

Slide 5: Opportunities

“Yet, alongside these challenges, Somalia sees several important opportunities:

- Contamination levels are relatively limited and not as widespread compared to other contexts.
- Somalia does not stockpile nor produce cluster munitions, which reduces the scale of the problem.
- Somalia has an established Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) programme that has been operating for many years, raising awareness among civilians and advising them to avoid hazardous areas until clearance is completed.
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- The areas identified as contaminated are largely remote, without major infrastructure, and fortunately there have been very few reports of civilian accidents in recent years.
- Importantly, Somali security forces are gradually regaining territory, which increases the likelihood of accessing and addressing previously contaminated areas.

These opportunities give us confidence that with the right support, Somalia can make steady progress toward fulfilling its obligations under the Convention.”

Slide 6: Way Forward

“Looking ahead, Somalia’s strategy is clear and realistic.

Over the next four years, we will:

- Develop a detailed and prioritized national action plan specifically addressing survey and clearance of cluster munition contamination.



- Mobilize resources to ensure survey and clearance operations are conducted in all accessible areas.
- Revise the National Mine Action Standards to address cluster munition contamination, enhance operational efficiency, and align with international best practices.
- Continue to monitor the security situation closely, so that clearance teams can be deployed as soon as areas are stabilized and recovered from insurgents.

This extension request is not a delay but a roadmap. It represents Somalia's determination to build capacity, mobilize resources, and systematically address the threat posed by cluster munitions."

Slide 7: Closing

"Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Somalia has suffered decades of conflict, but we are now determined to write a new chapter. Our vision is a Somalia where communities are safe, where children can play without fear, and where development can flourish free from the shadow of explosive hazards.

We therefore respectfully submit our extension request from March 2026 to March 2030. This time will allow us to consolidate progress, address

contamination, and ultimately meet our obligations under the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

We call upon the international community, our partners, donors, and fellow States Parties to continue supporting Somalia in this endeavor. Together, we can ensure that the legacy of past conflicts does not define the future of our people.

Somalia also recognizes the importance of transparency under the Convention. We are working to address its overdue Article 7 reports, and we intend to submit them at the earliest possible opportunity. This reflects Somalia's commitment to meeting *all obligations* under the convention including transparency. Even in a challenging context, Somalia remains determined to show political will and national ownership, and to keep States Parties fully informed of our progress.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank our humanitarian mine action partners in Somalia, including the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), The HALO Trust, iMMAP, and GICHD, for their continued and unwavering support in addressing the devastation caused by explosive hazards.



I also wish to extend my gratitude to the Implementation Support Unit of the CCM and the Article 4 Analysis Group including Italy, France, the Netherlands, and Switzerland for their patience, thorough review, and constructive feedback, which were instrumental in finalizing Somalia's Article 4 extension request

Thank you very much for your attention.”