



**Statement by the Republic of Vanuatu
13th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions
16–19 September 2025**

Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

We extend our sincere gratitude to you, Mr. President, Ambassador Carlos D. Sorreta, for your outstanding leadership and dedication. We also warmly congratulate the newly elected Vice-President on his appointment and wish him every success in his mandate.

It is an honor for the Republic of Vanuatu to take the floor for the first time as a State Party to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. On the 5 September 2025, Vanuatu deposited its instrument of accession, proudly becoming the 112th State Party. Our accession reflects Vanuatu's strong commitment to international humanitarian law and to a safer, more secure world.

Vanuatu's accession reaffirms its unwavering commitment to humanitarian objectives of the convention and strengthens its role in advancing these principals globally. This step builds on years of sustained alignment, including Vanuatu's endorsement of the treaty's principle in the Oslo Process that created it and joined in the consensus adoption of the convention in Dublin in 2008. Although, Vanuatu didn't attend the signing conference, it has consistently and resolutely supported the annual UN General Assembly resolution promoting the treaty since 2016.

Mr. President, Vanuatu believes that now is the right time to join the Convention. In the current international context, where humanitarian norms are under pressure and new uses of cluster munitions continue to be reported, it is essential to reaffirm and strengthen the global prohibition of these weapons. By acceding at this juncture, Vanuatu contributes to reinforcing the normative framework of international humanitarian law, supports accountability for indiscriminate weapons, and encourages further universalization of the Convention. Our decision reflects a broader commitment to rules-based multilateralism and to

ensuring that the Convention remains a strong and relevant instrument for international peace and security.

As a small island developing state, Vanuatu may be far from many of the conflicts where cluster munitions are used, but we are not far from their humanitarian impact. The harm caused by these indiscriminate weapons is unacceptable anywhere, and we are determined to contribute to their total elimination. Vanuatu doesn't use, produce, stockpile, or transfer cluster munitions, meaning its existing practice is already in line with the convention's core prohibition.

We commend the Convention's achievements in stigmatizing and reducing the use of cluster munitions. Yet we recognize that much work remains to be done – from stockpile destruction to clearance of contaminated land and ensuring adequate support for survivors.

For SIDS such as Vanuatu, successful implementation depends on predictable and accessible technical assistance and capacity-building. We encourage States Parties and partners to strengthen international cooperation, explore regional approaches, and ensure that no state is left behind in fulfilling its obligations.

Finally, Vanuatu calls upon all states not yet party to this Convention to join us without delay. Universalization is key to achieving a world free of cluster munitions.

Mr. President, Vanuatu stands ready to work with you and all delegations to ensure that the Convention continues to deliver on its promise to protect communities, promote peace, and uphold human dignity.

I thank you,