



**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY SOUTH AFRICA AT THE THIRTEENTH MEETING OF  
STATES PARTIES (13 MSP) OF THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS (CCM)**

**General Exchange of views**

**16 SEPTEMBER 2025  
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

Mr President,

South Africa extends its congratulations on your election as the President of the 13th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM).

South Africa wants to thank the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) for its tireless efforts to ensure that States Parties continue to meet their obligations under this Convention despite difficult circumstances we face today. We are encouraged by this spirit and commitment, which should continue to preserve the credibility of the Convention as we welcome and congratulate the Republic Vanuatu for acceding to the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

South Africa's statement is aligned to that of the African Group.

Mr President,

The International Humanitarian Law (IHL) remains central to the CCM in addressing contemporary and outstanding especially those who are still impacted by the devastating legacy of cluster munitions and those reeling from its legacy to serve as a tool for ensuring the human security and welfare of all peoples.

The victim assistance programmes are an integral part of the Convention towards the promotion and protection of the rights of cluster munitions victims and survivors, including persons with disabilities. South Africa supports the programme, which highlights the importance of legislation and national policies as vital for social and economic inclusion, education and awareness, care for victims and survivors of anti-personnel mines and other explosive devices, and the need for multisectoral and inter-institutional coordination.

South Africa embraces calls for initiatives aimed at enhancing the coordination of support actions from diverse sources and ensuring that aid reaches those who require it the most, emphasising the necessity for international cooperation, financial support, and conferences to tackle the needs of victims affected by deadly weapons.

Mr President,

Mindful of the sovereign prerogative of State Parties to decide their ongoing participation in the Convention, South Africa is however concerned regarding actions that may undermine the integrity and efficacy of the treaty. Safeguarding the integrity of this essential international instrument is crucial, not only to alleviate the devastating humanitarian consequences of cluster munitions but also to reinforce the global commitment to international peace and security. We therefore appeal to all States Parties to honour their obligations under the Convention on Cluster Munitions and to pursue constructive resolutions for issues through dialogue within the established framework of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

The measures focusing on national policies for protecting sensitive information and sharing best practices under the recording, retaining, and transmission of information, and generic preventive measures are important as they would assist to address the lack of ratification by those States that hold large stockpiles of cluster munitions. It is our collective responsibility to call for intensified efforts to bring into the fold those that have not yet joined the Convention, to achieve our goal of a cluster munitions free world.

In conclusion, South Africa reaffirms its commitment to fully implement all the provisions of the Convention and remains steadfast in fully reinforcing the norms established by this Convention while fulfilling its responsibilities under the provisions of the Convention. We reaffirm our commitment to actively engage in collaboration with other States and other relevant stakeholders to achieve a world free of cluster munitions.

I thank you.

End.