



**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY SOUTH AFRICA ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP  
DURING THE GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEW AT THE THIRTEENTH MEETING  
(13 MSP) OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS**

**16 SEPTEMBER 2025  
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

Thank you, Mr President,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group. I would like to extend our congratulations on your election as President of the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM).

We also extend our sincere appreciation to your Excellency, Ambassador Sorreta, and your team, and the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) for the engagements during the intersessional period as well as for your dedication and timely preparations for this Meeting. Please be assured of our support as you lead these discussions.

The African Group reiterates its commitment to promoting the universal adoption of the Convention and would like to warmly welcome the Republic of Vanuatu as the 112<sup>th</sup> State Party to the Convention. We also take this opportunity to encourage all Signatory States, as well as those not yet Party, to ratify or accede to the Convention without delay.

Mr President,

The ongoing efforts within the established framework, including the Lausanne Action Plan, which marks its fourth year of implementation, are essential for maintaining the

treaty and addressing emerging challenges to its prohibition on the use of cluster munitions.

As we mark the progress of the implementation of this Convention in the lead up to the Third Review Conference, scheduled to take place in 2026, the African Group wishes to register its deep concern about the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions globally, where many countries continue to suffer from contamination, with devastating consequences for civilians. Affected States still face significant challenges in addressing the legacy of these weapons.

Mr President,

Several countries across different regions have successfully completed clearance operations, ensuring that previously contaminated areas are now safe for communities.

There are however, in many areas, unexploded cluster munitions, including those from previous conflicts, that persist in having a severe impact in some African nations contaminating vast areas of land, fatalities and injuries, particularly among women and children.

This has hindered economic development and humanitarian efforts in many African nations by making agriculture for sustenance, relief aid, and reconstruction efforts unsafe and obstructs the repatriation of displaced communities and access to fundamental necessities such as food, water, and fuel, as well as to schools, markets, and healthcare.

Mr President,

Despite many challenges faced, the African continent has made significant progress in clearing cluster munition remnants, demonstrating a strong commitment to the objectives of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Where challenges remain, it is also due to the dependence on external funding and technical assistance that is required and calls for assistance that remain unanswered. In this regard, we call for assistance to African States Parties to support their national implementation efforts and to fulfil their obligations of the Convention.

Mr President,

The Group remains concerned about the alleged continued use of cluster munitions in some parts of the world and call upon all States Parties to uphold the Convention and provisions enshrined therein.

We regret that for the first time there has been an indication of a withdrawal from this important humanitarian disarmament treaty. We call upon States to consider refraining from this practice, and to rather engage in open channels of communication and constructive political dialogue; and to remain within and uphold their commitments to this Convention.

We all have a collective responsibility to ensure a world free of cluster munitions, and to advance the core principles of the Charter of the United Nations, International Humanitarian Law (IHL), and the progress that has already been achieved.

I thank you.

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