FEDRAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA

STATEMENT AT THE THIRD REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS (3RC)

Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic

Presented by Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle (Director General of SEMA)

Mr. President,

- **Excellencies, and Heads of Delegation,**
- **Distinguished Guests,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

Allow me at the outset, on behalf of the Government and the people of the Federal Republic of Somalia, to extend our warmest congratulations to you, Mr. President, on your election to lead the Third Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

We express our deep appreciation and gratitude to the Government and people of the Lao People's Democratic Republic for their warm hospitality and for hosting this crucial landmark gathering in Vientiane—a country that understands all too well the enduring challenges of cluster munition contamination.

Mr. President,

Somalia stands firm in its steadfast commitment to the humanitarian imperatives of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. We reiterate that Somalia does not produce, stockpile, or transfer cluster munitions. We remain fully dedicated to fulfilling our treaty

obligations and supporting global efforts toward a world free of these indiscriminate weapons.

However, our nation continues to navigate an extraordinarily complex operational environment. Beyond historical cluster munition contamination, Somalia faces severe, compounding threats from landmines, unexploded Ordnance (UXO), left behind by legacy conflicts. Compounding these historical hazards, our country suffers from the continuous, tragic threat of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) deployed by non-state armed groups. This complex mix of explosive hazards inflicts continuous civilian casualties, overwhelmingly affecting innocent women, children, nomadic herders, and agricultural workers, while severely crippling local livelihoods and stalling socio-economic development.

Excellencies,

Somalia's path toward complete land release is defined by unwavering determination in the face of complex operational realities. According to our National Mine Action Database, managed by the Somali Explosive Management Authority (SEMA), Somalia currently records 11 identified cluster munition hazard sites across affected regions.

A significant proportion of these contaminated areas remains situated in hard-to-reach districts currently impacted by ongoing security constraints. Despite these formidable challenges, Somalia has continued to take proactive steps. Through SEMA and our valued mine action partners—most notably The United Nations Mine Action Service, and the HALO Trust- are actively working to conduct Non-Technical Surveys (NTS) in all accessible areas to establish clear baselines, delineate high-risk zones, and prevent loss of life.

Mr. President,

Demining in Somalia is fundamentally integrated into our national vision for peace, security, and socio-economic transformation. Our mine action priorities are aligned with the newly launched National Transformation Plan (NTP 2025–2029).

To ensure a realistic, evidence-based roadmap for complete clearance, Somalia has submitted a request for a four-year extension under Article 4 of the Convention, extending our clearance target to March 2030. This extension period is strategically essential. It directly leverages the progressive stabilization and security recovery of territories by our national forces. As national security forces expand stability, SEMA and

our partners will systematically reach, survey, and clear isolated communities that have lacked government services and explosive ordnance interventions for decades.

Excellencies,

While the Federal Government of Somalia is taking incremental steps to strengthen institutional capacity and national ownership through SEMA, our clearance operations face severe resource bottlenecks and shrinking global mine action funding footprints.

Addressing cluster munition remnants alongside the widespread hazards of landmines, ERW, and IEDs requires substantial technical, financial, and logistical support. Without sustained international partnership, innocent lives remain at risk.

Somalia's strategic operational priorities under the Convention remain

focused on three vital pillars:

- **Accelerated Surveys and Land Release**: Expanding Non-Technical and Technical Surveys immediately as security opens access to newly recovered and stabilization zones;
- **Targeted Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE):** Delivering urgent, tailored risk education to vulnerable, displaced populations, pastoralist communities, and children living in high-risk zones;
- **Systematic Clearance and Capacity Building:** Clearing identified cluster remnants while building long-term national operational capacity to address civilian risks from IEDs and explosive remnants of war.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We call upon our international donor partners, State Parties, and the global mine action community to stand side-by-side with Somalia. Your continued support is not merely an investment in mine clearance—it is an investment in peace, human security, and agricultural revitalization for communities rebuilding after decades of conflict. Let us work together to ensure that no child or family in Somalia or anywhere in the world lives under the constant threat of explosive hazards.

I take this opportunity to thank our esteemed partners including the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), the HALO Trust, IMMAP, JICA, GICHD for the operational capacity development support and our donors including The Government of Japan, Netherlands, The People's Republic of China, United States, Germany, UK, and Ireland

for standing up to support Somalia in this critical and challenging time. We say ''**Mahadsanidiin**'' which means thank you all in Somali language.

Somalia re-commits itself fully to the objectives of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and to achieving a safer, cluster munitions free future for all.

Thank you.