

STATEMENT BY THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA on AGENDA ITEM 9(a):
UNIVERSALIZATION Third Review Conference of States Parties to the
Convention on Cluster Munitions, Vientiane, Lao PDR
15th September 2026

Mr. President,

Nigeria appreciates the Coordinators on Universalization, **Norway and Costa Rica**, for their work and for the report presented to the Conference.

Nigeria considers universalization fundamental to achieving the humanitarian objectives of the Convention. A prohibition of this importance is strengthened not only by faithful implementation among States Parties, but also by progressively expanding adherence and reinforcing the norm against cluster munitions.

While progress has been made, we recognize that the pace of universalization remains below our collective expectations. The draft Political Declaration itself acknowledges this reality while welcoming **South Sudan, Nigeria and Vanuatu** as the three States that have joined the Convention since the Second Review Conference.

Nigeria is particularly pleased to be among these States. Our own accession demonstrates that progress towards universal adherence remains possible, even against the backdrop of a challenging international security environment. We therefore encourage States not yet party to continue engaging with the Convention and to consider the humanitarian, developmental and security benefits of adherence.

Mr. President,

Nigeria believes that universalization must go beyond calls for accession. It requires **sustained dialogue, engagement and partnership**. In accordance with Article 21, States Parties should continue to use bilateral contacts, diplomatic engagements, regional and subregional platforms and other appropriate

opportunities to promote adherence to the Convention. At the same time, our engagement should seek to understand the particular circumstances and concerns that may delay accession and, where possible, assist States in addressing them.

Nigeria attaches particular importance to **regional ownership**. Regional and subregional organizations can help sustain dialogue, build confidence, share national experiences and develop approaches that are responsive to particular regional circumstances.

For Africa, my delegation believes that there remains considerable scope for closer cooperation among States Parties, the African Union, regional economic communities, the United Nations, the ICRC, civil society and other partners to encourage further adherence.

We must equally ensure that States considering accession have confidence that they will not be left alone in implementing their obligations. Universalization and implementation should therefore reinforce one another through appropriate technical assistance, capacity-building and international cooperation.

Mr. President,

Nigeria remains committed to working with State Parties and other partners to promote universal adherence to the Convention. We encourage signatory States to complete their ratification processes and invite States not yet party to deepen their engagement with the Convention.

Our objective should remain clear: **to broaden membership, strengthen respect for the Convention's norms and ensure that the humanitarian protection it provides becomes increasingly universal.**

Nigeria stands ready to contribute actively to that endeavour, particularly within our region.

I thank you, Mr. President.