

Statement by Cuba at the Third Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Item 9(a) on Universalization

Mr. President,

We acknowledge the work carried out by the thematic coordinators on the issue of universalization.

We welcome the accessions of Nigeria, South Sudan, and Vanuatu to the Convention since 2023. The commitment of these nations brings our membership to 112 States Parties.

These are important steps. However, we cannot waver in our collective determination for the full universalization of the Convention and the promotion of its standards, as well as its effective implementation.

In line with our commitment to the Convention, it is our responsibility to discourage, by all possible means, the use, development, production, stockpiling, and transfer of cluster munitions, and to advocate for the immediate cessation of such activities.

Cuba reaffirms its firm commitment to the universalization of the Convention, the promotion of its standards, and its effective implementation. In the current context of international security, it is imperative to strengthen this instrument and avoid any action that could weaken it.

Mr. President,

Since joining the Convention, our country has made sustained efforts to promote its provisions, consistent with our commitment to multilateralism and respect for International Humanitarian Law.

We have repeatedly warned that, in order to advance the universalization of this instrument, it is necessary to resolve ambiguities and inconsistencies that affect its uniform and effective application.

In this regard, we have expressed our concern regarding the definition of cluster munitions contained in the Convention, which excludes certain sophisticated variants of these weapons. This omission could limit the scope of the treaty and generate divergent interpretations.

Likewise, our delegation does not share the interpretation of certain actors who, relying on the ambiguity of Article 21, maintain that, within the framework of joint military operations with non-Party States, the prohibition on assistance established in Article 1 can be waived.

Cuba maintains that, under no circumstances, should States Parties assist, encourage, or induce activities prohibited by the Convention, including the use or stockpiling of cluster munitions, even when participating in joint operations with non-Party States.

For Cuba, the spirit of the Convention leaves no room for the use of cluster munitions by any State under any circumstances.

Resolving these ambiguities, along with strengthening international cooperation and assistance to victims, will tangibly contribute to the common goal of universalizing this Convention.

We also emphasize that, when addressing synergies with other international instruments, it is important to preserve the identity, objectives, and priorities of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, ensuring that such efforts do not dilute or relegate the specific obligations arising from this instrument.

Finally, we believe it is useful to strengthen public awareness campaigns on the humanitarian consequences of cluster munitions in order to reinforce the stigma against these weapons and support efforts toward universalization. Thank you so much.