



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

Convention on Cluster Munitions Review Conference 2026

IACG-MA joint statement under agenda item III – Universalization

Mr. President,

I deliver this statement on behalf of the United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action.

Excellencies,

Last month marked 16 years since the Convention on Cluster Munitions entered into force. The Convention has demonstrated that humanitarian disarmament works. Stockpiles have been destroyed, contaminated land cleared, communities made safer, and a powerful international norm established against weapons that cause unacceptable harm. Yet this progress cannot be taken for granted. Cluster munitions continue to be used in armed conflicts –killing, injuring and devastating communities.

The United Nations unequivocally condemns the use of cluster munitions and calls on all States to uphold and fully respect the Convention's prohibitions on their use, development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention, and transfer.

Excellencies,

At a time of growing global insecurity, we must defend the humanitarian norms we have built and reaffirm its collective responsibility to protect civilians, civilian infrastructure, and ensure respect for human life and dignity. In an increasingly insecure and unstable environment, we cannot weaken the rules designed to protect civilians from unacceptable harm.

The circumstances of conflict may change. The human consequences of these weapons do not.

The United Nations continues to prioritize the universalization and implementation of humanitarian disarmament instruments, including the Convention on Cluster Munitions. This commitment was reinforced through the Secretary-General's 2025 global campaign on Humanitarian Disarmament and Mine Action, which called for renewed support for humanitarian norms and concrete action to strengthen their implementation



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We also welcome the ICRC-led Global Initiative to Galvanize Political Commitment to International Humanitarian Law, which complements these efforts by fostering renewed commitment to the rules that protect civilians in armed conflict.

Excellencies,

The Convention on Cluster Munitions is a vital part of that framework. We must continue to defend strengthen and universalize it.

Since the Second Review Conference, there have been both setbacks and advances. While the withdrawal of a State Party from the Convention was deeply regretted, the continued and broad support for its humanitarian objectives demonstrates the enduring strength and relevance of the Convention and the norms it embodies.

Three States have joined the Convention since the Second Review Conference: South Sudan, Nigeria, and Vanuatu. Their decisions show that, even in a challenging international environment, progress toward universalization remains both achievable and important. We also welcome the Central African Republic's intention to join the Convention and encourage the national authorities to finalize the ratification process at the earliest opportunity, thereby translating this commitment into concrete action.

We encourage States Parties, civil society, and international organizations to seize every opportunity to promote adherence to the Convention and defend its humanitarian purpose

We urge all States not yet party to join the Convention without further delay.

Universalization is not only about increasing the number of States Parties. It is about reinforcing the collective commitment to a world free of weapons that continue to kill, injure and disrupt lives long after a conflicts have ended.

We encourage States Parties, civil society and international organizations to use every diplomatic opportunity to promote accession and adherence to the Convention and defend its humanitarian purpose.

The United Nations remains committed to advancing universalization and working towards a world free from cluster munitions. Thank you.



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