



**Third Review Conference of the
Convention on Cluster Munitions**

**Universalisation
15 September 2026**

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Thank you, President.

New Zealand is firmly committed to the universalisation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. The Convention embodies a powerful international norm against cluster munitions, one that places humanitarian considerations at the centre of disarmament efforts.

Broadening the CCM's membership is essential to consolidate and strengthen this global norm. The Convention's objectives cannot be fully realised while significant numbers of states remain outside it.

Universalisation is not simply a matter of increasing membership. It is about strengthening protections for civilians, preventing future harm, and reinforcing the global rejection of weapons that cause unacceptable humanitarian consequences.

Every new accession strengthens the stigma against cluster munitions and reinforces the expectation that these weapons should never be used, produced, transferred or stockpiled.

New Zealand therefore calls on all states that have not yet joined the Convention to accede without delay, including in the Pacific.

At present, Pacific membership of the CCM lags behind other parts of the world, despite general awareness of the dangerous legacy of unexploded ordnance from past conflict. New Zealand encourages others in the Pacific region that have not done so to join to the Convention. We stand ready to provide assistance to this end.

New Zealand welcomes the efforts undertaken by other States Parties, international organisations, and civil society to promote adherence to the

Convention. We pledge to continue working with you to promote understanding of the Convention's humanitarian purpose and practical benefits.

Thank you.