



## **United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action**

### **Convention on Cluster Munitions Review Conference 2026**

#### **IACG-MA joint statement under agenda item V – Survey and clearance**

Mr. President,

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

Excellencies,

Clearance and survey are at the heart of this Convention. We welcome the progress made under the Lausanne Action Plan, including improvements in survey and clearance methodologies and record levels of cluster munition clearance reported in 2025.

But there is much still to be done; and the task remains substantial.

Twenty-nine States and territories are assessed to be contaminated by cluster munitions – disappointingly this is an increase rather than a decrease from when we last met in this forum.

Eleven State Parties remain contaminated. Of these only one remains on track to complete its treaty clearance deadline. The United Nations urges all State Parties to redouble their efforts to uphold their treaty obligations and deadlines. We stand ready to assist in this important activity.

The extent of extension requests submitted under Article 4 since the last Review Conference underline the scale and complexity of the challenge. Where extensions are necessary, they should be grounded in evidence: with clear implementation plans, realistic milestones, adequate resources and measurable progress.

The United Nations, through many of its entities and agencies work alongside national authorities to support States meet these treaty obligations.

- In South Sudan, UN-supported clearance has benefited more than 490,000 people as the country seeks to recover from recent conflict.
- In Somalia, we are strengthening national capacity through training on explosive hazards and supporting national authorities as the UN Mission there begins to transition.
- Several UN entities are also working closely with national authorities in Ukraine, which although not a signatory to the Convention suffered 87% of global casualties from Cluster Munitions in 2025.

These are practical investments in saving lives and protecting civilians. They also enable the conditions for humanitarian access, recovery, safe return of forcibly displaced populations, peacebuilding and sustainable development that the presence of Cluster Munitions so cruelly denies. Beyond removing explosive hazards, clearance helps restore access to fundamental services and enables affected communities to exercise their rights in safety and dignity.



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Excellencies,

The global security environment has changed significantly since the last Review Conference. Armed conflicts have intensified and new use of cluster munitions has resulted in additional contamination, exposing more communities to their humanitarian consequences.

We are also seeing climate change altering contamination patterns, affecting operations and placing communities and previously cleared land at greater risk. Climate considerations must increasingly be built into mine action planning from the outset.

The same is true of technology – which poses both a risk and an opportunity for our community. We must monitor, react and adapt to technological change - countering negative evolution and harnessing technological advancements to enhance and improve Survey and Clearance, as well as the sector more broadly.

Cluster munition contamination does not affect everyone in the same way. Gender, age, disability and socioeconomic circumstances can shape exposure to risk, its consequence and access to assistance. Understanding and programming that responds to these differences is essential to effective and inclusive implementation of the Convention

Our objective is clear. We must have fewer contaminated communities, more land returned for safe use, and faster progress towards the full implementation of this Convention. We must remain committed, work together and adapt to the environment.

This is a collective effort. The United Nations remains fully committed to helping States Parties deliver on their treaty commitments.

Thank you.