



PHILIPPINES

**Statement delivered by
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for the
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Universalization

Mr. President,
Distinguished Guests, Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines, allow me to express our gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the 9th Meeting of States Parties on the Convention on Cluster Munitions and share our experience as the 106th State Party to the CCM. We believe that our recent achievement puts us in the position to encourage awareness from other Signatory and States Not Party to the Convention to act in support of its universalization.

Mr. President,

The Philippine Government has successfully pursued the ratification process through the collective efforts of different government agencies. Upon the treaty's entry into force for the Philippines on July 1, 2019, we began the process of completing the Initial Transparency Report to comply with the 180-day period of submission. In line with this initiative, the Philippines continues to maintain its position to prohibit the utilization, acquisition, investment, production, or transportation of cluster munitions in the country.

Significant in this effort is the Philippines' commitment, through the Armed Forces of the Philippines, in its continued prohibition of the inclusion of cluster munitions in its operational requirements and instead acquire safer and reliable weapons to ensure effectiveness in combat and to minimize the risk of casualties among civilians. The Armed Forces of the Philippines also takes part in regional activities to strengthen its capabilities in monitoring and inspection of the unexploded ordnance (UXOs) and explosive remnants of war (ERWs) which may include cluster munitions.

The Philippines' commitment to the promotion of the Convention does not end with its ratification. Aside from the endeavor to complete our Initial Report, the country contributed to efforts toward the universalization of the Convention in the region through the recently concluded Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on the Convention on Cluster Munitions held in Manila in June 2019. The workshop, hosted

by the Philippines and made possible with the support of New Zealand, Switzerland, Sri Lanka, as the President of the 9th Meeting of the State Parties to the Convention, and the Implementation Support Unit of the Convention, was attended by 13 states, five (5) of which are States Parties and eight (8) are States Not Party to the Convention. This workshop served as a platform to engage other states in the region and share our experiences towards ratification.

What have we learned from our experience, so far?

First, it is useful for states to develop a consistent and inclusive narrative to engage communities especially those exposed to the devastating effects of cluster munitions.

Second, domestic support is extremely important. Our efforts towards the ratification would not be possible without the contribution of various sectors. Implementation of the Convention requires the binding commitment to contribute and cooperate within and among the stakeholders. In the Philippines, we are a team of committed national government agencies and international non-government organizations that worked tirelessly even before the inception of the Convention, which led to the adoption of five (5) out of the eight (8) Philippine proposals in the Convention's text.

Third, international cooperation is imperative. It must be operationalized through multilateral initiatives such as joint trainings for capacity development, sharing of best practices, and creation of common

systems and infrastructure to facilitate cooperation and support, especially to affected states.

To conclude, the Philippines is one with the international community in our shared responsibility to eliminate and prohibit the use of cluster munitions. We will continue to strengthen our cooperation with our partners. Although there is still much to be done to achieve a world free of cluster munitions, we look forward to learning and working with you to achieve this shared goal.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.