



PHILIPPINES

PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

STATEMENT

To be delivered by

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Second Secretary

Thematic Debate on Cluster III: Conventional Weapons
First Committee of the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
Conference Room 4, United Nations Headquarters, New York
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Mr. Chair,

The Philippines aligns itself with the statements delivered by Cambodia on behalf of ASEAN and by Indonesia on behalf of NAM.

Each generation inherits both the progress and the perils of the one before it. As technology evolves and conflicts persist, the challenge before us is not only to control weapons but to reaffirm the values that make restraint possible. For the Philippines, this work is inseparable from our duty to safeguard human life and our ironclad commitment to International Humanitarian Law.

We pursue actions that uphold the centrality of the victims of these weapons and the need for affected states to build independent national capacities. As one of the few states that are party to all major humanitarian-disarmament instruments, the Philippines calls on all Member States to accede without delay to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, the Arms Trade Treaty, the Convention on Cluster Munitions, and the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention APMBC.

As President of the 13th Meeting of States Parties to the CCM, we reaffirmed our commitment to ending the suffering and casualties caused by cluster munitions. We welcome the accession of Vanuatu to the CCM and reiterate our call on those yet to accede to do so for consideration: for its universalization.

We deeply regret the withdrawal of some States Parties from the CCM and the APMBC. These developments risk eroding the hard-won humanitarian disarmament norms of our time.

We condemn any use of landmines, cluster munitions, incendiary weapons, or improvised explosive devices by any actor under any circumstances. We condemn their transfer and use in ongoing conflicts and call for the immediate cessation of the use of such weapons. The obligation to limit the effects of armed conflict for humanitarian considerations is rooted not only in treaty law but also in established customary international law, in the dictates of humanity, and in the public conscience. We also reaffirm our support for strengthening the implementation of IHL in the context of the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.

We underscore the cross-border and transnational threat posed by the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and their ammunition. The Philippines welcomes progress under the Global Framework for Through-Life Conventional Ammunition Management and reaffirms its commitment to the forthcoming Review Conference of the United Nations Programme of Action.

On the emerging domain of lethal autonomous weapons systems, we support the work of the CCW GGE on LAWS, and the informal discussions held in New York last May. We believe that this process must lead to a set of elements leading to a universally applicable, legally binding instrument that respects IHL, human judgment, and human responsibility in use-of-force decisions.

Mr. Chair,

Our vision is clear: disarmament must be a pillar of peace, not its afterthought. The Philippines stands ready to work with all partners to advance the humanitarian agenda of these instruments: to protect civilians, uphold human dignity, and to build a future defined not by weapons, but by hope, justice, and human security.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.