

EORE AG
Explosive Ordnance Risk Education
Advisory Group

11th Meeting of the States Parties to the CCM

11-14 September 2023

Check against delivery

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for granting us the privilege to address this meeting on behalf of the EORE Advisory Group. In this 11th Meeting of States Parties, as we convene to assess the progress made in implementing the Lausanne Action Plan, we would like to invite this assembly to focus on the role of risk education in protecting communities from the harm caused by cluster munitions.

Today, the new use and remnants of cluster munitions, continue to endanger people's lives in many places. Recent events such as the transfer of cluster munitions to Ukraine, coupled with data from the Global Protection Cluster highlighting that explosive ordnance poses risks in 84% of humanitarian operations, signal a need for greater emphasis on risk education. This also calls for further integration of risk education into wider humanitarian, protection and education efforts as well as prevention as outlined in the UN Secretary General New Agenda for Peace.

At the Second Review Conference, States Parties made a resolute commitment to strengthen risk education. These efforts are reflected in actions 27 to 30 of the Lausanne Action Plan as well as in action 20 that requires States Parties to include 'appropriate provisions for risk education' in their article 4 extension requests. Yet, a detailed analysis of statements delivered, and extension requests submitted at the Second Review Conference and the 10th Meeting of States Parties reveal that most statements and extension requests only mention risk education in passing or rarely go beyond listing activities and outputs. The analysis also shows that there have been fewer side events dedicated solely to risk education in formal meetings of the Convention.

To achieve the risk education goals set forth in the Lausanne Action Plan and respond to the protection needs of affected communities, the Advisory Group urges States Parties to elevate the profile of risk education within their collective efforts.

This could be done by appointing a coordinator for risk education within the Coordination Committee, similar to existing thematic coordinators for other key obligations under the Convention. Members of the EORE AG stand ready to assist in this work.

An additional decision could consist in separating risk education from clearance in the agenda of formal and informal meetings of the Convention. This deliberate separation would enable more robust and substantive discussions on risk education with the CCM community and beyond.

Mr. President,

Risk education from 10 years ago and risk education today are different. Substantial progress has indeed been made in advancing risk education practices. Examples include the launch of an explosive ordnance risk education e-learning course that consists of an introductory module for non-specialists and an advanced course for field practitioners; the focus on digital risk education approaches to reach people, especially in challenging environments; the ongoing development of global Theory of Change for EORE; the more systematic integration of principles of 'Behaviour Change Communication' into EORE project design; and efforts to measure behaviour change. These approaches and developments support our goal of enhancing the professionalism of the sector.

As we continue to progress towards our shared vision for improvement, we are reminded of the power and importance of multi-sector and multi-stakeholder engagement. As highlighted in action 27 of the Lausanne Action Plan, effective risk education must be cross-sectoral, and more work still needs to be done to explore and materialise opportunities for further cooperation with the protection, education, human rights, environment, and development sectors and to integrate risk education in broader agendas.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, as we convene under the banner of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, let us renew our commitment to risk education. By strengthening risk education in the Convention's machinery, by embracing a coordinated approach with other sectors, by fostering meaningful discussions, and by harnessing innovative tools, we can further the goals outlined in the Lausanne Action Plan.

The EORE Advisory Group stands ready to assist the incoming Presidency, States Parties and Observer States in realising the potential of risk education to better protect civilians from harm caused by cluster munitions.

Thank you.