

**Cluster Munitions Convention**  
**13th Meeting of States Parties**  
**16.-19.09.2025**

**Item 10 (d) – Risk Education**  
**Statement by Austria**

*Check against delivery*

Mr. President,

We would like to commend the coordinator, Lao PDR, for taking up the role as first stand-alone risk education coordinator in this Convention and thank them for the comprehensive report on their activities. Lao PDR has shared experiences and valuable good practices on risk education, including from their own experience, that will surely guide further discussions in the lead up to the Review Conference next year.

The role of risk education in our work cannot be overstated. Clearance can be a painstakingly long and costly endeavor and sometimes impossible in conflict situations. As a result, communities might not see clearance achieved in their lifetimes. In this context, risk education takes particular importance as the often last resort for the protection of civilians. It can empower individuals and affected communities and provide them with a life line and long-term perspective to protect themselves. Local ownership and community-based, grass-root approaches are therefore vital for this line of work and we encourage the engagement and exchanges with survivors and affected communities in this regard.

Mr. President,

According to the Cluster Munition Monitor, 42% of victims of cluster munitions are children. Focusing risk education measures on children is therefore pertinent. Integrating risk education into school curricular and community-based activities seems to be particularly promising. We also note with concern that the majority of casualties are men and boys, which calls for gender-responsive and behavioral change approaches to risk education. We would like to learn more from those working on risk education in this regard.

Not only for clearance and victim assistance efforts, but also for risk education, ensuring access can also be a significant challenge. However, thanks to new technologies access to information and training opportunities has become easier and we commend those working on such solutions and see this work as promising to be further discussed.

Thank you.