



Republic of Zambia

Welcoming Lao PDR's Presidency of the Third Review Conference

***Delivered during Item 16: Closure of the Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties
16 to 19 September, 2025***

Mr. President, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

On behalf of my delegation, I wish to warmly welcome the Lao People's Democratic Republic as the incoming President of the Third Review Conference of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Lao PDR's leadership carries profound significance. As one of the most heavily affected countries by cluster munitions, Lao PDR has consistently demonstrated unwavering commitment to the humanitarian principles of this Convention. Its national efforts in clearance, risk education, and victim assistance, as showcased at the side event on the first day of this MSP, have not only advanced implementation but also inspired global solidarity and action.

We are confident that Lao PDR will bring both technical insight and moral clarity to the presidency. The Third Review Conference presents a critical opportunity to assess progress, confront persistent challenges, and renew our collective ambition to eliminate the threat of cluster munitions. Under Lao PDR's stewardship, we look forward to a process that is inclusive, transparent, and grounded in the lived realities of affected communities.

We pledge our full support to Lao PDR in its preparations and leadership of the Review Conference and encourage all States Parties and stakeholders to engage constructively in the lead-up to this pivotal moment.

Thank you.