



**Convention on Cluster Munitions
13th Meeting of States Parties
September 2025**

**Statement by The HALO Trust
International Cooperation and Assistance**

Thank you, President.

As this is the first time that The HALO Trust takes the floor, let me congratulate you on your Presidency and thank the ISU for their continued support to this Convention.

We warmly congratulate Vanuatu on their accession to the Convention.

This accession strengthens the Treaty and reinforces the collective commitment to ending the harm caused by cluster munitions.

We would also like to acknowledge the important contribution of the Mine Action Review and the Cluster Munition Monitor for providing independent analysis that complements States Parties' own reporting and helps track global progress on clearance and important statistics.

The clearance of cluster munition remnants is one of the most visible successes of this Convention.

The latest Mine Action Review and Cluster Munition Monitor reports has documented a new annual clearance effort, which we applaud and should celebrate collectively.

The reports outlines the impressive progress made in Lao PDR as well as the scale of the task that remains.

Lao PDR's national targets are ambitious and meeting them will require sustained capacity and long-term planning.

HALO is proud to contribute to this national effort with the support of our donors.

In 2024, our teams cleared almost 17 square kilometres and destroyed nearly 9,000 submunitions in Savannakhet province, returning land to farming families and making communities safer.

We are equally proud that HALO's programme in Lao PDR continues to achieve gender parity, with women now making up half of all staff, including in operational and managerial roles, despite the recent funding challenges.

This shows that progress on clearance can and must go hand in hand with progress on equality and the importance that this important cross-cutting thematic is being supported by the national authorities too.

Sustaining clearance capacity will be critical to building on the impressive progress already achieved in Lao PDR.

By maintaining momentum, communities will continue to benefit from safe land and reduced risk, and national targets will remain within reach.

President, with Lao PDR set to host the Review Conference next year, HALO looks forward to working with the Government of Lao PDR, States Parties, and partners across the sector to share operational lessons and develop practical, evidence-based strategies.

Together, we can ensure that the Review Conference highlights the progress achieved and strengthens our collective commitment to realising the Convention's promise: the clearance of all cluster munition remnants.

I thank you.