

Concept note on CCM Third Review Conference preparatory process and substantive documents

Submitted by the President of the Third Review Conference

I. Introduction

1. The forthcoming Third Review Conference (3RC) of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) provides an opportunity for States Parties, and the broader community of stakeholders to consolidate achievements of the Vientiane-, the Dubrovnik- and the Lausanne action plans, address persistent challenges to full implementation, and renew the Convention's visibility and ongoing preventative importance within the broader humanitarian landscape as a contribution to enhancing the protection of civilians and thus strengthening the body of International Humanitarian Law.

2. Following the precedence set by the First Review Conference of the CCM held in 2015 in Dubrovnik, and the Second Review Conference of the CCM held in two parts, virtually on 25-27 November 2020 and on 20-21 September 2021 in Geneva, the Presidency of the CCM 3RC suggests that the Conference adopt three key substantive documents:

- 1) **a Review Document** on the status and operation of the Convention for the period 2021-2026, as basis for the Review Conference objectives outlined in Article 12.2 (a) of the Convention,
- 2) **a new Action Plan** to guide implementation for the period 2027–2031, and
- 3) **a Political Declaration**

This note provides the suggested process for the elaboration of these documents, including on a) format and content, b) process and timeline for their development, and c) guidance for inputs by States Parties and other stakeholders.

3. Following the process outlined by the previous Review Conference, the Lao Presidency will ensure that these documents are elaborated in a progressive, inclusive, and transparent manner. States Parties, signatory States and other stakeholders will be invited to share their views, analysis and input on the Review Document, the Action Plan 2027-2031 and the Political Declaration, as well as all other associated documents, at multiple stages throughout the preparatory process.

II. The Review of the Status and Operation of the Convention (Review Document)

4. Like the two previous iterations, the Review Document will play several key functions, e.g., enable States Parties to assess the progress made, identify what remains to be done and where it is believed that the main challenges lie ahead within the next foreseeable five-year period. It will be the basis upon which the forward-looking Action Plan 2027-2031 and Political Declaration should rest.

5. The Presidency, with the support of the Coordination Committee and of the Implementation Support Unit will prepare a zero draft of the Review Document for circulation to States Parties and other interested stakeholders for comments by mid-Jan 2026. The zero draft of the review of the status and operation of the Convention will focus on an analysis of global and aggregate developments and trends rather than country by country analysis, seeking to capture where the Convention is today.

6. The draft Review will aim to cover the achievements made so far in meeting the actions set forth in the ongoing quinquennial action plan, the Lausanne Action Plan, with an implementation period till the end of 2026. Reference will also be made, in a concise manner, to key developments under the previous

action plans adopted at the First and Second Review Conferences insofar, as they provide relevant historical context for assessing progress and trends over time. In this context, the Review Document will follow the structure of the Lausanne Action Plan: e.g. universalization, stockpile destruction, clearance and risk reduction education, victim assistance, international cooperation and assistance, transparency and exchange of information measures, and national implementation measures. Importantly, it will also include a section on normative developments and on implementation support provided for by the machinery put in place by the Convention itself, e.g. provisions for the Meetings of States Parties, and the decisions taken by States Parties to the Convention during such meetings, e.g. the establishment and work of a Coordination Committee, administrative and financial matters, the Implementation Support Unit, incl. the management of a sponsorship programme, intersessional work, and the participation of other actors.

7. Following the outline of the last review, the Review Document would be structured to correspond with the objectives outlined above (item 3), and include the following elements:

- (a) a brief historical overview of developments under previous action plans, for contextual purposes.
- (b) outlining of the status of the situation and progress since the Second Review Conference,
- (b) evaluation against the actions and objectives set forth by the Lausanne Action Plan 2021-2026,
- (c) identification of the challenges highlighted since the Second Review Conference.

8. Based on the comments received in a first virtual round on the zero draft, a consolidated version would be submitted to the First Preparatory Meeting. States parties and other stakeholders will have the possibility to make comments of a general nature on the consolidated version at the First Preparatory Meeting. They will be invited to make more specific comments in writing. Thereafter, the Review Document will be further consolidated.

9. All written comments and input for the Review Document should be submitted by email to the CCM ISU at implementation@cmconvention.org with copy to the President's Team at ccmpresident3rc@nra.gov.la

III. The Action Plan 2027-2031

10. As a document that will play a key role under the CCM for the period 2027-2031, the elaboration of the Action Plan will require attention and detail. The structure and the substance of the Action Plan 2027-2031 will be developed progressively under the guidance of the Presidency, with the support of the Coordination Committee and the Implementation Support Unit. In this context, a review of the previous action plans will be undertaken, with a view to identifying broad trends and elements of relevance for the next phase. This review will serve as an initial reference point for further work on the Action plan. A technical working group will then be established to support this process, including by providing technical input, as appropriate. States Parties will then have the opportunity to comment on the proposed structure and to provide substantively oriented input with a focus on actions for the next five-year plan. The First Preparatory Meeting will provide an initial opportunity for such exchanges.

11. The Action Plan 2027-2031 will have to address the elements emphasised by the Review Document. Building on previous action plans it should at the same time seek to capture new developments, progress and challenges. The Action Plan 2027-2031 will need to detail concrete actions States Parties should take to respond to the challenges identified in the review, take forward implementation and the realization of the objectives of the CCM during the period of 2027-2031. The aim should be for the Action Plan 2027-2031 to be clear, concise and to contain a balanced set of concrete actions that can

advance the individual completion goals of States Parties and collectively serve to strengthen the norms established by the Convention, and which should be measurable where possible. With an aim of enhancing annual reporting an attempt will also be made to benchmark progress against previous years' baselines and where relevant outline milestones necessary to reach time specific completion goals as well as agreed commitments under the CCM.

12. In developing the Action Plan 2027-2031, States Parties will have to address several key questions, including the structure that the Action Plan 2027-2031 should follow—including length, level of detail, number of actions, and its results orientation; the areas that it should cover, notably whether to include additional actions and implementation work; how the actions contained in the document could best be measured, and how the achievements and progress, or lack thereof should best be reported.

13. This list is not exhaustive. In this context, the CCM 3RC Presidency will circulate an informal working paper to structure and inform the exchanges on the Action Plan 2027-2031 at the First Preparatory Meeting scheduled for 30 March 2026. Following the First Preparatory Meeting, States Parties will have the opportunity to submit additional considerations in writing by 30 April 2026. Based on this input, the Presidency will elaborate a first draft of the Action Plan 2027-2031, for circulation in advance of and discussion at the Second Preparatory Meeting scheduled for 1 July 2026.

14. All written comments and input for the Action Plan 2027-2031 should be submitted by email to the CCM ISU at implementation@cmconvention.org with copy to the President's Team at ccmpresident3rc@nra.gov.la

IV. The Political Declaration

15. Like previous editions, the Political Declaration would fulfil several objectives, notably giving a renewed impetus and visibility to the Convention and an overall direction for the period 2027-2031. From a sequencing perspective, a substantive exchange and agreed direction on the Action Plan 2027-2031 will be critical prior to elaborating the Political Declaration.

16. Detailed guidance on inputs to the Political Declaration will therefore be provided at a later stage. Any suggestions at this point can be emailed to the President's Team at ccmpresident3rc@nra.gov.la

Timeline and activities of the early CCM Third Review Conference preparatory process

Sep / Oct 2025	Nov 2025 – Mid-Jan 2026	30 Jan	20 Feb	Feb	Mar
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presidents' transition - 13 MSP silence procedure addressed - Presidents' team consolidated - 3RevCon concept note elaborated & circulated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drafting of Review Document: desk review & aggregation of LAP reports, proposed implementation support elements drafted, etc. - Proposed structure and format of Action Plan developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Zero draft of Review Document circulated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Informal briefing w/ States parties, States not party and other stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Informal regional consultations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working paper developed to structure and inform exchanges of 1st PrepCom and circulated - Asia-Pacific regional universalisation workshop

V. Timeline for the development of documents

17. The three substantive documents will be developed within a timeline that will allow the Review Document to inform the Action Plan 2027-2031 and, subsequently, the Action Plan 2027-2031 to inform the Political Declaration. All three documents will be submitted to and discussed and adopted at the 3RC. In view of the calendar, the Presidency will aim to observe the following key dates and deadlines:

End of October 2025

Circulation of 3RevCon concept note to State parties and other stakeholders outlining key features, meeting schedule, events and documentation of the preparatory work foreseen including, but not limited to, in response to Article 12 of the CCM.

Mid-January 2026

Zero draft circulation of the Review Document to States Parties and other stakeholders for preliminary comments.

30 January 2026

Informal briefing at which the Presidency will provide further guidance of the process ahead. Additional informal briefings may be scheduled as and when need arise.

6 February 2026

Deadline for submission of analysis and input on the zero draft of the Review Document from States Parties and other stakeholders

20 February 2026

Informal consultations with regional groups with the opportunity for input and information sharing. Additional informal regional consultations may be scheduled in June if need arise.

Early March 2026

Draft documentation for the First Preparatory Meeting circulated, including a first draft of the Review Document

30 March 2026

First Preparatory Meeting for the 3RC. States parties and other stakeholders will have the opportunity to share views on the informal draft of the Review Document and to provide their reflections on the proposed structure and format of the Action Plan 2027-2031, considering the informal working paper issued by the Presidency.

30 April 2026

Deadline for submission of written input to the Action Plan 2027-2031 from States Parties and other stakeholders

Early June 2026

Draft documentation for the Second Preparatory Meeting circulated to States Parties, including a first draft of the Action Plan 2027-2031 and elements for a Political Declaration

1 July 2026

Second Preparatory Meeting for the 3RC. States parties and other stakeholders will have the opportunity to share views on the informal drafts of the Review Document and the Action Plan 2027-2031 and to comment on the elements for a Political Declaration.

Mid-July 2026

Submission deadline for pre-session documentation to the 3RC

16 July 2026

Deadline for submission of written inputs to the Political Declaration from States Parties and other stakeholders.

Mid-August 2026

First draft of the Political Declaration circulated to States parties for comments. Consultations continue towards and through the 3RC as necessary.

14 - 18 September 2026

The 3RC in Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR at which the Review Document, the Action Plan 2027-2031 and the Political Declaration will be discussed, agreed and formally adopted together with other decisions of the 3RC.

2026 Timeline for development of formal documents for the Third Review Conference

6 Feb	Early Mar	30 Mar	30 Apr	Early Jun	1 Jul	Mid- Jul	Mid-Aug	14-18 Sep
Deadline submission of input on zero draft of Review Document	Draft documents 1st PrepCom circulated, incl. first draft of Review Document	1st Prep. Meeting discussion on Review Doc. and structure & format of Action Plan 2027-2031	Deadline submission of input on Action Plan 2027-2031	Draft documents 2nd PrepCom circulated, incl. first draft of Action Plan 2027-2031 and elements for Political declaration	2nd Prep. Meeting discussion on Action Plan 2027-2031 and elements for Political declaration	Deadline for submission of input on Political Declaration + formal submission of pre-session documents ahead of 3rd RevCon	1st draft of Political Declaration circulated	3rd RevCon