



Summary of the Informal Regional Consultations with the Americas Group

Friday, 20 February 2026, 10:00 – 11:45

Venue: Room IX, Palais des Nations, Geneva

On 20 February 2026, from 10:00 to 11:45, the Presidency of Lao PDR convened an informal regional consultation with the Americas Group in preparation for the Third Review Conference (3RC) of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). The organization of regional consultations follows the practice established by the Presidency of the Second Review Conference to provide States Parties and signatories with an opportunity for open and informal exchanges in advance of the Review Conference.

Participating Delegations: Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, and Peru.

The meeting addressed substantive preparations for the Review Conference, including the Zero Draft Review of the Status and Operation of the Convention (2021–2025), the forthcoming Action Plan 2027–2031 (Vientiane Capital Action Plan - VCAP), elements of a Political Declaration, and logistical preparations.

1. Opening remarks

The Presidency highlighted that this consultation was primarily designed as a listening exercise to gather regional perspectives, priorities, and suggestions ahead of substantive negotiations.

The Presidency noted that the Americas region comprises 25 States Parties and two signatories to the Convention, representing about 24 percent of total membership. This region is home to the world's first cluster munition-free zone (Central America). This commitment highlights active regional engagement with the Convention's implementation framework, including participation in the Coordination Committee and previous presidencies of Meetings of States Parties, despite two signatories yet to ratify and seven States still outside the Convention.

The Presidency also recalled that the Third Review Conference will evaluate progress made between 2021 and 2025 and will make decisions regarding the Convention's work program and implementation mechanisms for the next cycle. It stressed the importance of ensuring that the new Action Plan and institutional framework reflect current realities, implementation needs, and emerging challenges, with discussions guided by the humanitarian imperatives of the Convention.

2. Agenda item 2 (a): Update on submissions received on the Zero draft of the Review of the Status and Operation of the Convention (2021-2025)

The Presidency informed delegations that, as of 18 February 2026, submissions had been received from 19 States Parties, two States not party, two UN agencies, and nine organizations. Feedback was largely positive, with appreciation for the inclusive and structured process. A revised draft is expected to be circulated in early March 2026.

Peru thanked the Presidency for organizing the consultation and for extending the deadline for submissions, noting that internal consultations are ongoing and that additional inputs may be transmitted. Peru also informed delegations that, together with Burkina Faso, it is developing a work plan under the Stockpile Destruction Committee, including planned activities prior to the Review Conference to share lessons learned on Article 3 implementation and to exchange views on matters

related to retention under Article 3(6). Peru reiterated its support for the Presidency's leadership in the process.

Panama welcomed the consultative approach and considered the Zero Draft comprehensive and reflective of progress achieved under the Lausanne Action Plan. Panama proposed strengthening references to synergies between the CCM and other international humanitarian law instruments, including the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, as well as links to human rights, development, and climate-related frameworks. It supported the mainstreaming of environmental and climate considerations, alongside gender, diversity, youth, and disability inclusion. Panama emphasized the importance of reinforcing language on the humanitarian consequences of cluster munitions and universalization, and referred to interpretation issues related to Articles 1 and 21, stressing the need to reinforce prohibitions and prevent normalization of conduct contrary to the Convention. It further suggested innovative universalization approaches, including engagement in other international forums and the possible appointment of a goodwill ambassador. Panama expressed support for maintaining the agreed gender language from the Lausanne Action Plan and recalled previous discussions concerning a cooperative compliance mechanism.

Canada expressed appreciation for the transparent and structured process and welcomed the extension of submission deadlines. It encouraged streamlining of the review document and suggested separating the questions in another document for clarity. It noted the proposal of a dedicated funding mechanism and raised considerations regarding its feasibility. Canada noted that the Americas represent an interesting regional grouping within the Convention and emphasized the shared views of the region in general. It further emphasized the value of continued engagement with civil society organizations in the preparatory process. highlighted workload considerations in light of multiple treaty review processes in 2026.

Mexico welcomed the structure and overall approach of the Zero Draft and requested inclusion of agreed language from recent Meetings of States Parties concerning treaty integrity and withdrawal. Mexico emphasized the importance of reinforcing references to the humanitarian consequences of cluster munitions, highlighted funding challenges affecting clearance and victim assistance, and underlined the need to preserve agreed language on gender mainstreaming.

The Presidency took note of all comments for consideration in the revised draft.

3. Agenda item 2 (b): Preliminary exchange of views on the CCM Action Plan 2027-2031

The Presidency informed delegations that the new Action Plan will be referred to as the Vientiane Capital Action Plan (VCAP). The Presidency reported on the January 2026 Coordination Committee retreat, which highlighted the need for a focused, practical, and implementation-oriented framework responsive to current realities.

Canada reiterated the importance of maintaining gender mainstreaming consistent with existing treaty language and the Lausanne Action Plan. It supported expanded attention to mental health and psychosocial support for victims and encouraged environmentally and climate-sensitive approaches to clearance activities. Canada emphasized that the Action Plan should remain realistic and aligned with available resources and implementation capacities, while maintaining an inclusive approach.

4. Announcement of the establishment of the Technical Group and Informal Working Group on Sponsorship Programme:

The Presidency announced the establishment of a Technical Group composed of experts from relevant UN entities, the ICRC, GICHD, operational partners, and civil society to support drafting of the VCAP by ensuring clarity, coherence, and measurable proposals.

The Presidency also informed delegations of an informal working group reviewing the CCM Sponsorship Programme, with a focus on transparency and accountability while preserving inclusive participation.

5. Agenda item 2 (c): Preliminary exchange of views on a Political Declaration

The Presidency announced that the drafting of the Political Declaration will begin once the details of the Action Plan are more clearly defined. This Declaration will outline the vision of the States Parties and reaffirm their commitments under the Convention. The Presidency noted that although it is still early in the process, the Presidency is eager to hear preliminary thoughts from the group. No delegations made any interventions on this item.

6. Update on logistical preparations for the Third Review Conference and the First Preparatory Meeting

The Presidency provided the following information regarding participation and arrangements for the Third Review Conference:

- There will be no limitation on the size of delegations, including participation in the field visit and at the Review Conference.
- In the Conference room, two seats will be allocated in the front row and two seats in the back row for each delegation.
- Additional delegation members will be accommodated in a different area of the meeting room.
- Further detailed logistical information will be shared in due course.
- As of now, four formal documents have been submitted. These documents are available on the ISU website and will soon be accessible on the UNODA document website before the First Preparatory Meeting.

7. Next steps and closing

The Presidency informed the delegations of the following timeline:

- First Preparatory Meeting: 30 March 2026 at Palais des Nations
- Side Event during NDM-UN29: 22–24 April 2026
- Second Regional Consultations: 22 and 24 June 2026 at GICHD
- Second Preparatory Meeting: 1 July 2026

The Presidency concluded by thanking delegations for their engagement and reaffirmed its commitment to continued consultations in preparation for the Third Review Conference in Vientiane Capital.