



3RC
THIRD REVIEW CONFERENCE
OF THE CONVENTION
ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS
14-18 SEPT 2026 | LAO PDR

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COORDINATION COMMITTEE OF THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS

GICHD, Maison de la Paix

9 :15 – 10 :15

Friday 23rd January 2026

Attendance

Present

Lao People's Democratic Republic
3RC Presidency

H.E. Mr. Daovy Vongxay
Ms. Keobounsansomsanouk

Consultants:
Ms. Phonenipha Mathouchanh
Ms. Sara Sekkenes

Netherlands (Kingdom of the)
(International Cooperation and Assistance)
Ms. Henriëtte van Gulik

Australia
(Transparency Measures)
Ms. Gemma Hallett

Norway
(Universalisation)
Mr. Kristian Svanes

Austria
(General Status of the Operation of the
Convention and CCM Gender Focal Points)
Ms. Julia Eberl

Panama
(National Implementation Measures)
Ms. Grisselle Rodriguez

Cameroon
(General Status of the Operation of the
Convention and CCM Gender Focal Points)
Mr. Serges Ntamack

Philippines (the)
(13MSP Presidency)
Ms. Hannah Zulayka L. Abubakar

Costa Rica
(Universalisation)
Mr. Gustavo Corella Cordero

Peru
(Stockpile Destruction and Retention)
Mr. Angel Horna

Lebanon
(Risk Education)
Lt.Col. Ali Makki

Switzerland
(International Cooperation and Assistance)
Ms. Silvia Greve
Ms. Zoë Pozniecek

Mexico
(Clearance)
Ms. Estefanía Padilla

CMC
(Observer)
Ms. Kasia Derlicka

Niger
(Victim Assistance)
Mr. Yacoubou Ambarka

ICRC
(Observer)
Mr. Fahad Ahmed

UNODA
(Observer)
Ms. Silvia Mercogliano

ISU-CCM
Ms. Pamela Moraga
Dr. Riccardo Labianco

Apologies Received
France

Absent
Burkina Faso

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Opening Remarks, Adoption of the Agenda and the Minutes from the Previous Meeting

Ambassador Vongxay opened the meeting and invited the Coordination Committee to adopt the following documents:

- Agenda for the Second Meeting of the Coordination Committee; and
- Minutes of the First Meeting of the Coordination Committee held on 26 November 2025.

Both the documents were approved without amendment.

Ambassador Vongxay then opened the floor to members of the Coordination Committee (CC).

Discussion on the Meeting Minutes

The Representative of Norway expressed appreciation for the minutes of the previous meeting while suggesting that future minutes could be more concise in order to reduce workload for the ISU. He proposed focusing primarily on key decisions and main outcomes.

The Representative of Panama: pointed out that the minutes are useful in their current form, as they capture not only the decisions but, importantly, the discussions leading to them, which is important for delegates covering a number of portfolios. In case they are not able to attend a meeting, they can read the minutes and can be better prepared for upcoming meetings to react on points that were discussed. Furthermore, current minutes reflect a long-lasting practice of transparency and accountability, which should be maintained.

The Representative of Mexico: also underlined the value of maintaining comprehensive minutes, provided this is manageable for the ISU. She stressed that detailed minutes help keep delegations unable to attend meetings fully informed.

The Representative of the Netherlands: confirmed that the minutes are helpful and suggested that a middle ground approach could be considered keeping the essence of the discussions on one hand, while making sure that everyone who is not present or could not attend understand what took place during said meeting, particularly in view of the busy year ahead.

Ambassador Vongxay: concluded that the Presidency would reflect together with the ISU further on the matter, noting the importance of the minutes particularly for smaller delegations, who handle various portfolios and are not able to attend every meeting.

Updates from the Presidency

The Presidency provide updates on their activities, including:

Universalisation

The UNGA resolution entitled “Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions” received

increased support this year. States including Tonga, Tuvalu, and Brazil voted in favour of the resolution after previously abstaining.

Review Conference Cost Estimates

These were adopted following a second silent procedure concluding on 19th December 2025.

Bilateral Meetings

Bilateral meeting with China's representation: Ambassador Vongxay reported on his meeting with the Chinese delegation regarding the attendance to the Third Review Conference (3RC) as observers (this was an idea raised by a CC member during the First Coordination Committee meeting). The Chinese delegation indicated that the request had been transmitted to their capital for consideration.

Bilateral meetings with the Ambassador of Austria and the Ambassador of Switzerland: Both meetings were very productive, and supportive to the Presidency and the preparations for the Third Review Conference.

Bilateral universalization meeting with Kiribati: Ambassador Vongxay reported that Kiribati's representative has a positive stance on joining the Convention and would submit the matter to their capital and revert in due course.

Upcoming bilateral meetings in coordination with the Coordinators for Universalization, Norway and Costa Rica: meetings are planned with Angola, Zimbabwe, and Indonesia.

Identification of a Co-Coordinator on Victim Assistance: New Zealand indicated it could not assume the role of Co-Coordinator. Ambassador Vongxay informed discussions would be pursued with Japan to explore possible interest and availability.

Upcoming events

- A Coordination Committee Retreat was organised following this Second Meeting of the Coordination Committee, in line with established practice.
- An informal briefing will be held on 30th January, open to all UN Member States, organisations, and civil society.
- Informal regional consultations will be organised to provide opportunities to discuss specific issues related to different regions.
- Universalisation activities are being planned in coordination with the relevant coordinators, including two possible workshops, one in Vientiane, tentatively in March 2026, and another in Addis Ababa, tentatively in May 2026, in cooperation with the ICRC, the universalisation coordinators and the ISU. Concept notes for both events are under preparation, and delegations interested in supporting these workshops are invited to engage with the Presidency and the ISU.

Discussion on Regional Consultations and workshops

The Representative of Panama: requested clarification regarding regional consultations, noting that Convention's membership is not formally organised along regional group lines as in other fora.

Ambassador Vongxay clarified that consultations would follow regional groupings reflected in the ISU universalisation table.

Representative of Australia inquired whether the regional consultations would be open to all States Parties or limited to smaller targeted groups.

Representative of Austria similarly asked whether the regional consultations would be open to all CC members and offered to inform Austria's embassies in Bangkok and Addis Ababa about possible support for the planned workshops.

The ISU Director, after being given the floor, replied that all States are invited to participate in these events, thanked Austria for its offer of support, and took note of it.

Updates from Coordinators

Coordinators provided updates on activities within their respective areas of responsibility, as summarized below:

- The Representative of Austria reported on meetings held with the ISU and UNIDIR and ongoing work to define priorities. Current efforts focus on supporting coherence and consistency across documentation for the 3RC, strengthening the operational framework of the Convention, gender and diversity considerations in the work of the Convention and reinforcing the CCM norm within broader humanitarian disarmament discussions.
- The Representative of Australia reported progress in developing their workplan on transparency and reporting, noting that activities are being advanced early, in view of the busy year ahead. Consultations have taken place with UNIDIR and the Presidency and the workplan is close to finalisation. Australia has already organised a series of side events and submitted a working paper at the 13 MSP and the APMBC MSP to enhance awareness, cooperation and capacity building in transparency reporting. They are also planning to organise informal meetings between stakeholders across instruments to explore synergies in transparency reporting across conventional arms control instruments.
- The Representative of Panama reported that her workplan is close to submission following consultations with the ISU and the ICRC. Planned activities include a stock-taking exercise and analytical work, to help States Parties review whether national measures are appropriate and comprehensive development of practical tools for States Parties, and the creation of a

“clinic” format to facilitate exchanges among States Parties and stakeholders. Engagement with the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) is also envisaged.

- The Representative of the Netherlands reported that the Netherlands and Switzerland met with the ISU to discuss the workplan. Some of the proposed activities were highlighted, such as hosting a second joint meeting with the International Cooperation and Assistance committee of APMBC, establishing a meeting with the chair of the Mine Action Support Group (MASG) and the group more broadly. Work on Country Coalitions continues, and support to the Presidency was reaffirmed.
- The Representative of Norway along with Costa Rica reported plans to continue their universalisation meetings specifically referring to their plans to meet with Kiribati. He thanked the ISU for its support and noted that additional States may be approached to support universalization efforts, particularly in regions where Norway and Costa Rica lack diplomatic representation. Potential partner countries are being identified.
- The Representative of Lebanon reported consultations with the ISU and GICHD regarding the workplan and indicated that a regional workshop on risk education is under consideration, potentially to be hosted in Lebanon or Geneva. In particular, he flagged that Lebanon has a success story regarding the rolling out of risk education in conflict settings. The representative further emphasised the importance of establishing a platform compiling materials and links relevant to the 3RC, accessible to all States Parties, particularly those whose technical experts are not based in Geneva.
- The Representative of Peru noted that following the completion of the destruction of all known cluster munition stockpiles, work is entering a new phase. Together with Burkina Faso, they are developing a workplan and consulted the ISU last year for inputs. The workplan will include both a stock-taking of past experiences, and consideration of future directions, including matters related to retention.
- The Representative of Mexico reported that Mexico and France met with the ISU and are currently drafting their workplan. They reported several meetings with Chad regarding its Article 4 extension request. She informed that Chad is currently behind the timeline established by the guidelines for extension request. Nevertheless, she highlighted that the Coordinators were recently informed that Chad expects to submit the request in the coming week.
- The Representative of Niger indicated that although he is new to victim assistance, he is committed to advancing work on the topic and has already engaged with the ISU and with his predecessor from Panama. Work is under way on a plan prioritising the rights and needs of victims and survivors, reflecting the importance of victim assistance for Niger. He also expressed appreciation for the Presidency’s efforts to identify a co-coordinator.

Updates on the Review Conference Process

Ambassador Vongxay informed the Committee that relevant documents have been submitted and that further details on the Conference's programme of work are expected by the time of the First Preparatory Meeting as Vientiane is still working on logistics and the possible field visit.

Regarding the Zero Draft of the Review Document, he reported that it was sent to States Parties stakeholders and international organisations. Most of its content will be discussed during the Coordination Committee Retreat following the meeting. States are invited to submit written inputs by 6 February.

The Representative of Austria thanked the Presidency and the ISU for their work on the draft, describing the document as extensive but informative, and inquired whether the questions included in the draft would remain in the final version.

Ambassador Vongxay explained that the questions are intended solely to facilitate discussion and the submission of comments and inputs and will be removed in later versions.

The Representative of Panama asked whether inputs to the Review Document could be structured or formatted in ways that would facilitate reception, analysis and targeted contributions.

Ambassador Vongxay encouraged Coordination Committee members to submit precise inputs as and that forms to facilitate the reception of inputs could be developed jointly by the Presidency and the ISU if required. He also mentioned that they will look forward to working on the section of the Review Document regarding the machinery with coordinators.

Update on the Article 14 Financial Situation

Recalling the approval of the cost estimates in December 2025, the Representative of UNODA reported that invoices were sent to States Parties between 30 and 31 December last year. She noted that Switzerland, New Zealand, the Holy See, and the Netherlands had already paid their contributions, which cover the cost of the First Preparatory Meeting on 30 March.

Update from the ISU

The ISU Director provided an update on recent developments and activities undertaken by the ISU including the following:

Review Conference Preparation

The ISU supported the Presidency in drafting of the *Zero Draft of the Lausanne Action Plan and implementation Support Machinery* document. Additional preparatory activities included

Document Submission to UNODA: On 16 January the ISU submitted to UNODA key documentation for the First Preparatory Meeting, including the provisional agenda for the First Preparatory Meeting, the draft provisional agenda for the Review Conference, and the existing Rules of Procedure. Translation of both agendas was carried out in house by the ISU. All documents are available online on the Convention's website in advance unformatted versions.

Engagement with the coordinators

The ISU has engaged with almost all the thematic coordinators to provide guidance and support in the preparation of their respective work plans for this year.

Coordination Committee Retreat

In recent weeks the ISU has coordinated preparations for the upcoming Coordination Committee Retreat in cooperation with the GICHD.

Implementation support and Outreach

As part of its implementation support and outreach activities, the ISU initiated a stock taking exercise of technical resources, tools and available expertise across the community. The objective is to strengthen implementation support under the Convention and provide State Parties with clearer access to available assistance.

Outreach during the APMBC Meeting of States Parties through a number of bilateral meetings, including Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, and the Organisation of American States.

The Fall Edition of the CCM newsletter was also shared on 18th December.

ISU Financial Situation

As of 26 November 2025, the ISU had received contributions from 68 States Parties, bringing the total amount available to CHF 491'470.46, equivalent to 98.86% of the approved 2025 budget.

While this indicates strong budget execution overall, this result has been achieved in large part through voluntary contributions rather than balanced payment of assessed contributions across budget categories A and B.

As of early January 2026, assessed contributions under budget categories 7a and 7b remained insufficient to achieve the intended 50/50 per cent balance under the total approved budget, resulting in a shortfall of CHF 5,668: a gap partially mitigated through voluntary contributions under category 7(c). The ISU continues to closely monitor challenges related to financial sustainability. In addition, the ISU budget has also been affected by foreign-exchange fluctuations. Notwithstanding these pressures, total expenditure currently stands at CHF 443,888, approximately 11% below the approved budget.

UNGA Resolution

Voting Trends the ISU informed the Committee that an analysis of voting trends relating to the UN General Assembly resolution on the implementation of the Convention, covering the period 2021 – 2025, has been undertaken and will be circulated to Coordination Committee members.

Overall support remains strong. Between 2021 and 2025 the resolution received 144 yes votes- reaching its highest level in 2023- 148 yes votes) support dropped to 121 in 2024, reaching an unprecedented level of increase in the number of States not voting or absent (38). In 2025, the results improved significantly, with the resolution receiving 138 votes in favour, two (2) votes against and 35 abstentions.

Ambassador Vongxay opened the floor for final comments: regarding the documentation submitted to UNODA, the ODA representative informed the Committee that instructions are pending. As translations were not carried out by the United Nations, the documents may be issued with a disclaimer.

Closing of the Meeting

In closing, Ambassador Vongxay informed the Coordination committee members that the informal working group on the sponsorship guidelines have currently comprises Australia and Panama, together with the Lao PDR's Presidency, and invited additional Coordination Committee members to express interest in joining the group.

He further informed participants that the next meeting of the Coordination Committee will take place on 3 March at 1:30pm. The Ambassador then declared the second meeting of the Committee adjourned.