

Review Conference of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions

30 March 2026

English only

Working Paper on Elements for the Vientiane Capital Action Plan: Submitted by the President

I. Introduction

1. The elements contained in this document draw on the initial exchanges held during the Coordination Committee retreat in January, and the informal regional consultations in February, during which attending delegations shared preliminary views on the structure and format of a new Action Plan.
2. The document also reflects key challenges identified in the draft review document of the Lausanne Action Plan (LAP). In light of the range of views expressed, it is not intended to be exhaustive.
3. This document provides a synthesis of these contributions as a basis for initial exchanges among States Parties on the development of the Vientiane Capital Action Plan 2027-2031 (VCAP), with a view to guiding further drafting.
4. It also outlines the intended scope of work of the proposed technical group (TG), as discussed during the regional consultations, to support the development of the new Action Plan under the guidance of States Parties, including by providing technical input, as appropriate, as outlined in the Concept Note for the Preparatory Process.
5. The TG, coordinated by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) with support from the Implementation Support Unit (ISU), has begun its work. This group comprises experts from field-based United Nations entities, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and relevant operational partners and has developed a working paper outlining key issues for consideration. The paper includes preliminary suggestions on how these could be reflected in the future VCAP, covering potential structure, format, and thematic focus areas.
6. This first exchange of views will focus on the overarching considerations for a new Action Plan, prior to more detailed discussion on specific proposals.

II. Overall considerations

7. As with previous action plans, the VCAP should guide States Parties in the implementation of the Convention at the national level, support the fulfilment of obligations as expeditiously as possible, and provide direction on collective objectives, including universalisation.
8. Building on the LAP, the VCAP should aim to advance sustained and measurable progress in both the universalisation and implementation of the Convention over the period 2027-2031, through the identification of concrete and actionable measures.
9. The actions set forth in the Action Plan would not constitute legal obligations but would serve as practical guidance to support the implementation of the Convention. Accompanied by indicators, where possible, the VCAP should facilitate the monitoring of progress and the identification of challenges at both national and collective levels.



10. Delegations highlighted the need for the new Action Plan to remain practical, implementable, and aligned with available resources, including through approaches such as “country coalitions” that balance national ownership and sector coordination with sustained international cooperation and support.

11. There is broad support for retaining the overall structure of the LAP, aligned with the core provisions of the Convention, including dedicated sections on Risk Education, Transparency and Compliance, while ensuring a streamlined and manageable number of actions.

12. The importance of coherence across disarmament instruments has also been highlighted, including through the promotion of synergies, the sharing of best practices, and the streamlining of reporting related to mine action activities such as survey, clearance, stockpile destruction, risk education and victim assistance.

13. States Parties emphasized the value of maintaining and strengthening cross-cutting actions and best practices, as reflected in the LAP, as guiding principles for VCAP.

14. Delegations further underscored the importance of maintaining strong normative commitments, particularly regarding universalization and survivor-centred approaches, as well as gender-, age-, and disability-responsive measures. These should ensure that the diverse needs, vulnerabilities and perspectives of affected populations are reflected in implementation of the Convention, and that barriers to full, equal and meaningful participation are addressed, both at the national level and within the Convention’s institutional framework.

15. Discussions underscored the importance of a focused, practical and implementation-oriented framework that is responsive to current realities. This could include, where appropriate, strengthening linkages with broader legal and policy frameworks related to the protection of civilians, peace and security, human rights, and sustainable development, while ensuring attention to gender, age, and disability considerations, youth engagement, conflict sensitivity, and environmental factors.

16. To enhance the effectiveness of reporting and enable stronger results-based analysis, several structural elements have also been suggested, including:

- (a) the inclusion of a brief implementation-status chapeau for each thematic section (as in the Dubrovnik Action Plan) serving as a baseline;
- (b) the identification of aspirational milestones within the reporting period at the close of each thematic section; and
- (c) the prioritisation of clearly defined, single-commitment actions.

III. Next steps

17. Following the First Preparatory Meeting, the Presidency will commence on the elaboration of the Vientiane Capital Action Plan for the period 2027-2031, in consultation with the Coordination Committee and with the support of the ISU.

18. To support this work, the Presidency will draw on the contribution of the TG to enhance clarity, coherence, and the development of measurable and results-oriented proposals for consideration by States Parties.

19. A working paper of the TG will be circulated after the First Preparatory Meeting. This document will highlight issues identified for consideration and may include illustrative examples of actions, possible approaches for formulation based on best practices, and potential indicators to support the Presidency in elaborating the first draft in line with the guidance provided by States Parties.

20. With a view to presenting the first draft of Vientiane Action Plan (VCAP 1.0) at the Second Preparatory Meeting, the Presidency will prepare a draft outline for further consultations following the First Preparatory Meeting. In accordance with the timeline set out in the Presidency's Concept Note on the Preparatory Process, a first draft will be circulated to States Parties by early June for discussion at the next Preparatory Meeting on 1 July.
