

Working document on Elements for a Political Declaration

Presented by the Presidency of the Third Review Conference

The Presidency invites States Parties and other stakeholders to share their views on the principal themes and messages that could be reflected in the Political Declaration to be adopted at the Third Review Conference. The elements below are intended to facilitate consultations and do not represent draft negotiated language.

1. Opening and reaffirming collective commitment

The Political Declaration could reaffirm the enduring humanitarian purpose of the Convention and the shared commitment of States Parties to end, for all time, the suffering and casualties caused by cluster munitions and to achieve a world free of cluster munitions.

2. Recognising Humanitarian achievements

The Political Declaration could recognise the significant humanitarian achievements made since the Second Review Conference, including progress in protecting civilians and reducing the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions through the implementation of the Convention.

3. Highlighting implementation progress

The Political Declaration could acknowledge progress achieved in stockpile destruction, clearance, risk education and victim assistance, while recognising the continuing importance of full implementation of all Convention obligations.

4. Recognising victims and survivors

The Political Declaration could reaffirm the Convention's pioneering approach to victim assistance, recognise the continuing needs and rights of victims and survivors, and acknowledge the importance of their meaningful participation in implementation efforts.

5. Recognising the broader contribution of the Convention and sustainable development

The Political Declaration could highlight the Convention's contribution to peace, security, sustainable development, human rights and international humanitarian law, as well as its broader humanitarian objectives and relevance to other international frameworks. It could also recognise the mutually reinforcing relationship between the implementation of the Convention and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, underscoring how progress in one area supports progress in the other.

6. Partnership, cooperation and inclusive implementation

The Political Declaration could recognise the contribution of affected and other States Parties, international and regional organizations, the United Nations, the ICRC, civil society and other partners in advancing implementation of the Convention. It could also reaffirm the importance of ensuring that implementation is inclusive, reflects the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men, and promotes the meaningful participation of victims and survivors and other affected groups.

7. Remaining humanitarian challenges

The Political Declaration could acknowledge that, despite significant progress, important humanitarian and implementation challenges remain and reaffirm the determination of States Parties to address them during the next review cycle.

8. Protecting and strengthening the Convention's norms

The Political Declaration could reaffirm the importance of preserving the integrity of the Convention and strengthening respect for its norms, including through universal adherence and continued engagement with States not party.

9. Recent and ongoing use of cluster munitions

Consistent with previous Review Conferences, the Presidency proposes that this section continue to be developed through consultations. Possible elements could include:

- Expression of concern regarding recent or ongoing use of cluster munitions and their humanitarian consequences;
- Condemnation of any use of cluster munitions by any actor under any circumstances;
- Reaffirmation of the stigma attached to cluster munitions and the need to strengthen the Convention's norms;

10. Universalization

The Political Declaration could reaffirm that universal adherence to the Convention remains essential to achieving its humanitarian objectives and encourage continued efforts to promote accession and ratification.

11. Full and timely implementation

The Political Declaration could reaffirm the importance of fulfilling all Convention obligations in a timely manner and maintaining momentum during the next review cycle.

12. National ownership and implementation support

The Political Declaration could recognise the importance of national ownership, sustainable national capacities, international cooperation and assistance, and adequate resources in supporting implementation.

13. Looking Ahead

The Political Declaration could conclude by reaffirming the shared commitment of States Parties to strengthen implementation of the Convention during the next review cycle, guided by the Vientiane Capital Action Plan 2027 – 2031 and the objective of achieving a world free of cluster munitions.

Questions for consultation

The Presidency would particularly welcome views on:

- Whether these themes appropriately reflect priorities for the Third Review Conference;
- Whether additional themes should be considered;
- Whether any these should be consolidated or reordered;
- Issues that should receive particular political emphasis in the Political Declaration;
- Matters that should be addressed through the Political Declaration rather than the Vientiane Capital action Plan.