



3RC
THIRD REVIEW CONFERENCE
OF THE CONVENTION
ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS
14-18 SEPT 2025 | LAO PDR

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

Tuesday 21 April 2026

10:00 – 12:00

Palais des Nations, Geneva

Attendance

Present

Lao People's Democratic Republic

3RC Presidency

H.E. Mr. Daovy Vongxay

Ms. Keobounsansomsanouk

3RC Presidency's Consultants:

Ms. Phonenipha Mathouchanh

Ms. Sara Sekkenes

Australia

(Transparency Measures)

Mr. James Mackay

Austria

(General Status of the Operation of the
Convention and CCM Gender Focal Points)

Ms. Julia Eberl

Cameroon

(General Status of the Operation of the
Convention and CCM Gender Focal Points)

Mr. Paul Serges Ntamack

Costa Rica

(Universalization)

Gustavo Corella

France

(Survey and Clearance)

Mr. Mathieu Tasse

Japan

(Victim Assistance)

Mr. Kazuki Tamai

Ms. Zoë Venetis

Lebanon

(Risk Education)

Mr. Ali Makki

Mexico

(Survey and Clearance)

Mr. Alonso Martínez

Ms. Estefanía Padilla

Netherlands (Kingdom of the)

(International Cooperation and Assistance)

Ms. Sterre Lucas

Niger

(Victim Assistance)

Mr. Yacoubou Ambarka Hassane

Norway

(Universalisation)

Ms. Azra Numanović

Panama

(National Implementation Measures)

Ms. Grisselle Rodríguez

Peru

(Stockpile Destruction and Retention)

Mr. Angel Horna

CMC

(Observer)

Ms. Kasia Derlicka

Philippines (the)

(12MSP Presidency)

Ms. Hannah Zulayka L. Abubakar

ICRC

(Observer)

Mr. Fahad Ahmed

Switzerland

(International Cooperation and Assistance)

Ms. Silvia Greve

Mr. Marcel Rieder

UNODA

(Observer)

Ms. C. Melanie Reginbal

Ms. Silvia Mercogliano

Ms. Lavinia Auert

ISU-CCM

Ms. Pamela Moraga

Dr. Riccardo Labianco

Apologies Received

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Absent

Burkina Faso

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

Under the first agenda item, Ambassador Vongxay invited participants to approve both the agenda for the meeting and the minutes of the previous meeting. As no objections were raised, the Coordination Committee approved both documents.

2. Stocktaking by the Presidency on the First Preparatory Meeting of the Third Review Conference

Ambassador Vongxay then moved to the second agenda item concerning the First Preparatory Meeting of the Third Review Conference. The Ambassador noted the active engagement of delegates during the First Preparatory Meeting (PM1), which demonstrated the strong commitment of States Parties, Signatory States, other States, and civil society. The Ambassador highlighted that such commitment is critical in underscoring the vital role of the Convention in addressing the impact of cluster munitions in a challenging context.

Ambassador Vongxay further highlighted that, during PM1, achievements in the implementation of the Lausanne Action Plan, particularly in the areas of clearance, risk education, and victim assistance, as well as their tangible results, were noted.

Ambassador Vongxay also reported that, with regard to the new Action Plan (VCAP), States expressed their willingness to build primarily on the Lausanne Action Plan (LAP), while drawing on certain elements of the Dubrovnik Action Plan. The Ambassador added that the VCAP should include clear and targeted elements and focus on practical aspects, including key challenges, reporting formats, data disaggregation, and other operational issues. In summary, the Ambassador emphasized that the new Action Plan should be practical and realistic, respond to the challenges faced by States, and make a meaningful difference for those affected by cluster munitions.

Ambassador Vongxay also outlined additional issues raised by States during PM1, including the need for a sustained national approach to implementation, adequate resources, strengthened international cooperation and assistance, and the development of partnerships among stakeholders, including States, humanitarian mine action (HMA) operators, and civil society, to improve coordination.

Turning to the political declaration, Ambassador Vongxay expressed the view that it should be clear, unambiguous, forward-looking, and based on the consensus reached in previous meetings. This includes the need to incorporate a condemnation of any use of cluster munitions by any actor under any circumstances.

Ambassador Vongxay further underscored the importance of integrating the implementation of the Convention into broader national strategies and frameworks, including international humanitarian law (IHL), the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda, as well as climate resilience and environmental protection.

Overall, Ambassador Vongxay noted that PM1 marked an important milestone in the preparation of the Third Review Conference.

Ambassador Vongxay also highlighted that the Presidency is committed to ensuring a transparent and inclusive process. He then thanked all members of the Committee, all States, and other stakeholders, as well as the ISU and UNODA.

[The Ambassador then opened the floor to other members of the CC – no interventions]

3. Update by the Presidency on Preparations for the Third Review Conference

Ambassador Vongxay updated Committee members on the activities undertaken by the Presidency since the third CC meeting, listing the following:

- Coordination meetings with UNODA and the ISU to discuss logistical matters for the preparation of the Second Preparatory Meeting.
- A meeting on the sponsorship programme and its guidelines, with Panama, Australia, Switzerland, Cameroon, and the Philippines.
- A second meeting of the informal working group on universalization.
- A number of bilateral meetings with States to support the organization of activities related to the Third Review Conference.
- Issuance of a statement on the occasion of Mine Awareness Day, as well as the launch of the Presidency's Youth Campaign titled "Voices across time".

Ambassador Vongxay also announced that the regional workshop for Asia and the Pacific will be rescheduled to 27–29 May, according to the most recent updates received from his capital. Furthermore, he announced that the workshop for Africa, to be held in Addis Ababa and hosted by Lao PDR and the Republic of Cameroon in collaboration with the ICRC, will take place on 4–5 June. The Ambassador expressed his gratitude to all those who contributed to and co-financed these workshops, as well as to those supporting other activities in preparation for the Third Review Conference.

4. Updates by Thematic Coordinators

Moving to agenda item 4, Ambassador Vongxay gave the floor to the thematic coordinators for a round of updates.

Coordinator for General Status and Operation: The Representative of Austria The Representative of Austria reported that the coordinators co-sponsored an event on 12 March co-organized by UNIDIR on gender and diversity aspects of the CCM Implementation, in the form of a consultation on these issues. She further noted that the Coordinators (Austria and Cameroon) had carefully listened to the statements delivered during PM1 and that both countries are committed to identifying the appropriate language on these aspects for the new Action Plan.

The Representative added that the next activity of the coordinators will be an event at the NDM, co-organized by UNIDIR, with UNMAS in South Sudan, and the Presidency, which will focus on progress on the implementation of Gender Considerations and Diversity of Populations in the Convention and how to best reflect such aspects in the next Action Plan.

Coordinator for Universalization: The Representative of Norway reported on the second meeting of the informal working group on universalization and referred to notes that were circulated among CC members. She also noted that, although no new accessions are expected in the near future, universalization efforts are ongoing in Africa, South-East Asia, and the Caribbean. Coordinators have recently engaged with Indonesia and Malaysia. With the next meeting scheduled for the second week of May, coordinators expressed confidence that they will have reached out to at least ten States by that time. After thanking the Presidency for its efforts to promote universalization, the Representative also invited all States to use the NDM as an opportunity to engage with other delegations.

Ambassador Vongxay thanked the Representative of Norway and provided additional updates on his own efforts to promote universalization. With regard to Ethiopia, the Ambassador reported that the decision to ratify the Convention remains under consideration by Parliament and that the Ethiopian Ambassador committed to following up with his capital. Similarly, the Representative of Tanzania indicated that follow-up would be undertaken with their capital.

The Representative of Mexico provided further details on Mexico's efforts to promote universalization. It was informed that the Mexican Ambassador followed upon her efforts during her presidency of the 12th MSP, and approached the permanent representatives of Jamaica and Haiti. With regard to Jamaica, it was noted that progress is being made as it is currently on the docket of Congress, although it remains uncertain whether ratification will be completed before the Third Review Conference. Regarding Haiti, it was indicated that well-known internal challenges are affecting the country's ability to consider ratification of the Convention at this time.

The Representative of CMC then took the floor, highlighting that universalization remains one of the organization's key priorities and expressing interest in participating and contributing to the regional workshops. The Representative also shared updates on CMC's universalization campaign in the lead up to the 3rd Review Conference with the key message to all States Parties being "Bring a new friend to Vientiane". She also highlighted that the CMC has short briefing papers with key arguments on joining the convention, that are available in multiple languages. Finally, the Representative invited members of the CC to consult the Monitor's website for up-to-date information on individual countries' position on the Convention.

Coordinator for Clearance: The Representative of France briefed the Committee on joint work with Mexico related to survey and clearance. He informed the CC that an ongoing extension request process involving Chad is nearing completion. The Representative also referred to upcoming engagement with partners, including MAG, Mine Action Review, and HI, to gather additional information on Chad's situation.

Coordinator for Stockpile destruction: The Representative of Peru updated the Committee on preparations for an event on stockpile destruction and the continued relevance of Article 3 of the Convention. He noted that the coordinators on stockpile destruction are reaching out to delegations, including Bulgaria, as well as to potential speakers such as representatives of Peru's Air Force involved in destruction activities and experts from the ICRC, UNIDIR, and NPA. The event was initially planned for April but is likely to be slightly postponed. The Representative also thanked the ISU for its support in organizing the event.

Coordinator for Victim Assistance: The Representative of Japan, referred to the completion and publication of their workplan, titled "Integrated and Inclusive Victim Assistance and the Third Review Conference". Regarding the workplan, the Representative highlighted the central role of technological solutions aimed at building sustainability in their work.

The Representative of Niger, after referring to the participation of the Coordinators in the Victim Assistance Retreat organized by the APMBC, highlighted that the workplan has now been uploaded. As for next steps, as indicated in the workplan, the coordinators will reach out to States under Article 5 obligations during the NDM. Furthermore, the Representative of Niger explained that a first draft of the working paper on the integrated approach to victim assistance will be ready soon. Both representatives expressed thanks to the ISU for its support.

Coordinator on International Cooperation and Assistance:

The Representative of Switzerland informed the CC that the coordinators, in preparation of the Third Review Conference in Vientiane, will continue their work on an Action that focuses on the establishment of Country Coalitions. In this context they seek to establish a meeting with the Chair of the Mine Action Support Group (MASG) to present the model of Country Coalitions and elaborate on potential synergies with aligned MASG activities. In addition, the coordinators participated at a side event organized by the Mine Action Review at the margins of the Mine Directors Meetings (NDM) in April 2026. The representative of Netherlands, in her role as CCM coordinator for International Cooperation and Assistance, introduced coordination platforms in both the Ottawa- and Oslo Convention, and presented the model of Country Coalitions. The coordinators further aimed to attend the meeting of the Article-4 Analysis Group with Chad regarding its extension request.

Coordinator on Transparency measures:

After conveying apologies on behalf of Ms Cavenagh and Ms Hallett for their inability to attend, the Representative of Australia reported on recent activities undertaken by Australia as coordinator on Transparency Measures. These included hosting two side events and circulating documents among States Parties' missions in Geneva aimed at supporting the fulfilment of reporting obligations. Australia hosted an informal meeting with States, UNODA, UNIDIR, ISUs and civil society, and also engaged State Parties which have not yet submitted initial

transparency reports. The Representative also announced the preparation of a working paper on transparency and synergies among instruments in the context of this year's ATT Conference of States Parties, as well as the progress report ahead of the Third Review Conference.

Coordinator on National Implementation Measures: The Representative of Panama informed the Committee of progress with regard to national implementation measures, including the submission of her workplan. In this regard, she outlined planned activities for the coming months, including an analysis of the status of national implementation measures based on information reported by States Parties through Article 7 reports.

Coordinator on Risk Education: Finally,¹ the Representative of Lebanon reported on activities related to risk education. With the related workplan submitted at the end of February, he referred to the initial intention to organize a regional consultation on risk education in Lebanon at the LAF's demining school in Beirut, which is currently facing significant challenges because of the situation in the country. For this reason, the event will instead be organized in Geneva. Substantively, the event will focus on recent developments in conflict preparedness and the evolving role of risk education, using Lebanon as a case study. In this context, he explained how the Convention can contribute to innovation in the risk education sector. More generally, the Representative emphasized the importance of risk education, particularly when it is self-standing and linked to the protection of civilians.

Thanking the Representative of Lebanon, Ambassador Vongxay expressed his appreciation for his efforts and his commitment to attend the Fourth CC Meeting from Beirut.

No further comments were expressed.

5. Update by UNODA on CCM Financing in Accordance with Article 14 of the Convention

Under agenda item 5, Ambassador Vongxay gave the floor to the Representative of UNODA. The Representative updated the Coordination Committee, reporting on the status of the fulfilment of the financial obligations under Article 14 of the Convention, and that, by 31 March 2026, the amount of USD 489,720 USD had been received by ODA.

6. Update by the Implementation Support Unit

Ambassador Vongxay then moved to the sixth agenda item, updates by the ISU, and gave the floor to the ISU Director.

First Preparatory Meeting

The ISU Director began her update by outlining the ISU's work in preparation for, and in support of, the First Preparatory Meeting of the Third Review Conference. This included administrative

¹ Due to unforeseen circumstances, the intervention of the Representative of Lebanon took place after the exhaustion of agenda items 5 and 6.

and logistical support, targeted policy guidance, provision of analytical inputs, and coordination support to facilitate informed and forward-looking discussions. The Director also highlighted that the ISU continues to support the preparation and management of documentation for the Review Conference, in close coordination with the Presidency, to ensure a structured and timely preparatory process.

After emphasizing the importance of the First Preparatory Meeting in the overall Review Conference process, the Director reminded members of the CC that the deadline to provide inputs for the action plan is 30 April.

Coordinators' Workplans

The ISU Director then turned to the 2025–2026 workplans of the thematic coordinators and the related activities and events. She noted that, by the time of the Fourth CC Meeting, all workplans had been submitted and that coordinators were expected to complete their planned activities by June in order to be reflected in reporting for the current cycle, in line with UNODA submission deadlines.

Events, Activities, and Universalization

With regard to meetings, events, and activities organized or supported by the ISU, the Director highlighted:

- the preparation of a universalization workshop in Addis Ababa, in collaboration with the ICRC and NPA;
- The event titled “What’s Next after the Lausanne Action Plan? Strengthening Gender Considerations and the Diversity of Populations in CCM Implementation” (12 March), which served as an interactive brainstorming session on gender and diversity considerations in implementation of the Convention organized by UNIDIR and involving the CCM’s Gender Focal Points and the ISU;
- APMBC Victim Assistance Retreat (13 March), which the CCM ISU attended to engage with relevant stakeholders and provide its perspective on this area of implementation of the Victim Assistance provisions of the Convention;
- Technical Group on the CCM Action Plan (18 March), bringing together sixteen organizations to reflect on the Lausanne Action Plan and the future Vientiane Capital Action Plan;
- Second Meeting of the Informal Working Group on Universalization (23 March). The meeting, co-organized by Costa Rica and Norway, provided an opportunity for States and organizations committed to universalization to exchange updates on activities and discuss further steps to advance universalization;
- Meeting with the Analysis Group for Article 4 Extension Requests. This meeting, convened and chaired by the two clearance coordinators, France and Mexico, examined Chad’s request for an extension to fulfil its obligations under Article 4 of the Convention. The group is expected to meet with Chad’s delegation during the NDM;

- Informal exchange on the Sponsorship Programme (25 March). Organized by the ISU on behalf of the Presidency, this exchange brought together Secretariats and ISUs of other frameworks (namely BWC, CCW, and ATT) to share experiences and lessons learned regarding their respective sponsorship programmes;
- 152nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Istanbul, Türkiye (17 April). At the invitation of the IPU's Committee on International Humanitarian Law, the ISU travelled to Istanbul, Türkiye and briefed the 47th session of the Committee on the Convention and its current status. The Director highlighted this as an important opportunity to support universalization. The ISU also held bilateral meetings with parliamentarians from different States, including signatory States, to discuss progress towards ratification or accession;
- Seminar with Roma Tre University of Rome, Italy (17 April). The ISU had been invited by the Italian Campaign to Ban Landmines to present the Convention and its functioning to a group of university students. The Director noted that such engagement contributes to outreach and awareness-raising among young professionals interested in humanitarian disarmament and supports broader efforts to promote understanding of the Convention and its implementation.

ISU Staff Updated

The ISU Director then provided an update on the ISU's staffing. Following receipt by the GICHD - ISU staff's legal employer - of a formal determination from the insurance provider regarding the sick leave status of the unit's Implementation Support Assistant it was established that she is not in a position to return to her current role, while being considered fit to work in a different capacity. As a result, the insurance coverage will cease as of 1 May 2026.

On this basis, it was assessed by GICHD, that in the absence of a suitable alternative role within the ISU or the Centre it may not be possible to continue her employment in her current capacity. This was also communicated to the Implementation Support Assistant last week by GICHD HR and subsequently conveyed to both the GICHD Director and the ISU Director.

In this context, it is recalled that the structure of the ISU has been defined by States Parties since its establishment and comprises a total capacity of 2.5 positions (Director, 100% Implementation Support Specialist 100% and Implementation Support Assistant 50%) as such the ISU is not in a position to accommodate alternative roles within the current structure.

In line with the applicable procedures, GICHD has outlined a course of action to be implemented in the coming days, noting that a decision is required before the end of this week.

In accordance with the Host Agreement, decisions related to ISU staffing fall within the responsibility of the Director in consultation with the Presidency. Notwithstanding this, and in the interest of transparency and inclusive governance, the Director brought this matter to the attention of the Committee and explicitly invited members to share any views or guidance they may wish to offer.

Ambassador Vongxay expressed appreciation for the ISU's work and the steps taken to ensure continuity of operations in support of the Presidency. He opened the floor for any comments.

There were no interventions.

Updates on ISU Finance

The ISU Director then provided an update on the ISU's financial situation, noting that it has improved steadily. Contributions have been received from 69 States (out of 112), bringing total contributions to CHF 517,742, which represents full coverage of the approved 2025 budget (CHF 497,138) and a modest surplus.

However, the Director highlighted that contributions remain unevenly distributed across funding categories. In particular, a significant proportion of contributions continues to be allocated to categories 7a and 7b. While this imbalance has been partially offset through voluntary contributions under category 7c, it underscores the continued reliance on this category and the importance of timely and full payment of assessed contributions.

The ISU Director also referred to contributions received for 2026, which at the time of reporting amounted to CHF 219,945.52 from 37 States Parties, representing approximately 42.7 per cent of the approved budget.

In closing, the Director emphasized that the financial framework agreed by States Parties is designed to ensure predictability, equity, and shared responsibility. Full and predictable contributions from all States Parties remain essential to safeguard the ISU's operational continuity and its ability to support effective implementation of the Convention. As preparations for the Third Review Conference advance, the ISU counts on the continued cooperation and support of all States Parties.

7. Closing Remarks

After noting that there were no interventions under the agenda item "any other business", Ambassador Vongxay emphasized the continued relevance of the Convention, particularly in light of the suffering caused by cluster munitions worldwide.

He underscored the Presidency's commitment to advancing its objectives and reiterated the importance of collective efforts to support affected populations.

Finally, Ambassador Vongxay reminded the Committee of the incoming National Mine Action Director's Meeting (NDM) and indicated that Presidency was organizing a side event on the link between policy and practical implementation of the Convention, inviting all Committee members to attend.

The meeting was thereafter adjourned.
