



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

Workshop Summary

Regional Workshop on the Universalization of the Convention on Cluster Munitions for African States

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 4-5 June 2026

1. Introduction

The Regional Workshop on the Universalization of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) for African States was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 4-5 June and was co-hosted by the Lao People's Democratic Republic, as President of the Third Review Conference of States Parties to the CCM, and the Republic of Cameroon, in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), and the CCM Implementation Support Unit (ISU), with the financial support from Canada, Norway, and Switzerland.

The workshop brought together representatives from 27 African States, as well as international and regional organizations, civil society, and mine action partners.

The opening session featured remarks by H.E. Mr. Daovy Vongxay, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Lao PDR to the United Nations Office in Geneva; H.E. Ewumbue-Monono Churchill, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cameroon in Addis Ababa; and Mr. Hillary Kiboro Muchiri, Deputy Head of Delegation and Legal Adviser, of the ICRC Delegation to the African Union.

2. Themes emerging from the Discussions

The workshop provided an opportunity for participants to exchange experiences and perspectives on the implementation and universalization of the Convention on Cluster Munitions in the African context.

Discussions highlighted the importance of integrating humanitarian disarmament objectives within broader national development, peacebuilding, and security frameworks. Participants shared experiences relating to victim assistance, clearance, risk education, and awareness raising, underscoring the contribution of these activities to addressing the humanitarian consequences of cluster munitions.

Discussions also highlighted the importance of effective national coordination mechanisms, meaningful survivor participation, reliable data collection and management systems, and sustained resource mobilization in support of implementation efforts.

Drawing on national experiences and lessons learned, participants exchanged views on practical approaches to strengthening implementation and cooperation. Topics discussed included:

- national ownership and coordination mechanisms for the implementation of Convention obligations;
- The participation of survivors and affected communities in policy development, planning, and implementation processes;
- The collection, management, and use of data to support evidence-based decision-making and resource mobilization;
- Approaches to victim assistance integrated within broader health, rehabilitation, education, and social protection systems;
- Technical cooperation and the exchange of expertise among African States and partners
- resource mobilization in support of survey, clearance, stockpile destruction, risk education, and victim assistance activities; and
- regional and international partnerships that support capacity-building, knowledge-sharing, and long-term sustainability.

3. Highlights from the Thematic Sessions

The workshop featured nine thematic sessions covering the history of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, its key provisions, the protection of civilians, regional perspectives, national implementation experiences, legal frameworks, and future priorities.

Presentations and discussions drew on the experiences and perspectives of representatives from African and non-African States, regional organizations, academia, civil society, mine action operators, and international organizations. Contributors included representatives of Angola, Austria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ghana, Mauritania, Niger, Norway, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Switzerland, and the Lao PDR; as well as the CCM implementation Support Unit, the African Union Commission; Addis Ababa University Humanity & Inclusion; the ICBL-CMC; the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); Mines Advisory Group (MAG); Norwegian People's Aid (NPA); and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS).

The thematic sessions provided an opportunity to exchange experiences and perspectives on the implementation and universalization of the Convention, underscoring the value of cooperation among States, international and regional organizations, civil society, survivors, and operational partners.

4. Themes Emerging from the Breakout Discussions

Participants took part in three breakout discussions to exchange experiences and perspectives on practical approaches to strengthening implementation. Discussions were conducted under Chatham House Rules and are reflected below in a non-attributable and non-exhaustive manner.

- a) **Targeted advocacy, peer engagement, and regional diplomacy:** Discussions explored opportunities to advance universalization through regional cooperation, peer engagement, and diplomatic outreach. Participants exchanged views on the potential role of the African Union structures and regional economic communities in supporting universalization efforts. Ideas raised during the discussion included the possible

identification of “champion States” within regional groupings to support outreach efforts and the use of bilateral engagement mechanisms to encourage broader adherence to the Convention.

- b) National Implementation, legislative Frameworks and Reporting:** Participants exchanged experiences relating to national implementation, including legislative measures, institutional coordination arrangements, and reporting practices. Discussions highlighted varying levels of familiarity with Convention obligations, as well as challenges associated with legislation, reporting, and institutional capacity. Participants also shared experiences regarding capacity building initiatives, peer learning and technical support mechanisms that may assist States in meeting their implementation obligations.
- c) Cooperation on clearance, stockpile destruction, risk education, and victim assistance:** Discussions explored approaches to strengthening cooperation and partnerships in support of implementation. Participants exchanged views on South-South cooperation, technical assistance, and partnership models that support national ownership and long-term sustainability. Discussions also highlighted the importance of national coordination mechanisms, dedicated focal points, and implementation planning in supporting sustained progress. Discussions also touched on opportunities to further integrate CCM objectives within relevant African Union frameworks, including the Peace and Security Council and the “Silencing the Guns” initiative.

5. Conclusions

Discussions throughout the workshop reaffirmed the importance of continued cooperation to advance universalization, strengthen implementation, and address the humanitarian consequences of cluster munitions.

The representative of the Central African Republic informed participants that the country is in the process of ratifying the Convention and expressed hope that ratification will be completed ahead of the Third Review Conference in September 2026.

The workshop emphasized that African leadership remains central to advancing humanitarian disarmament, protecting civilians, and strengthening respect for international humanitarian law.

Discussions throughout the workshop highlighted the important role of African leadership in advancing humanitarian disarmament objectives, protecting civilians, and strengthening respect for international humanitarian law.

6. Acknowledgements

Participants expressed their appreciation to the Lao PDR and the Republic of Cameroon for hosting the workshop, as well as the ICRC, Norwegian People’s Aid, the CCM Implementation Support Unit, and the Governments of Canada, Norway, and Switzerland for their support.