

SECOND PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE THIRD REVIEW CONFERENCE

Geneva, 1 July 2026

**Item 4 - Recommendation of the designation of President
of the Fourteenth Meeting of States Parties**

Mr. Deputy Minister,

Let me first express our gratitude for the trust put into us, into Austria by the community of States Parties of this Convention and I attach very strong personal memories with the CCM since the early days of its inception here in Geneva and am therefore particularly honoured for the designation as president of the 14th Meeting of States Parties.

Austria has been and continues to be a staunch supporter of the CCM, which has saved countless lives and reduced the threat of cluster munitions for civilians worldwide. In its 15 years of existence, the CCM has proven to be one of the most effective instruments of humanitarian disarmament. Great accomplishments have been achieved in the collective effort to prevent or curb the impact of cluster munitions. Adherence to the prohibition norms has contributed significantly to save lives, to clear land and hand it back for use, to rehabilitate affected communities, to fulfill the human rights of survivors and ensure their human dignity.

Austria continues to support the humanitarian disarmament conventions as part of the broader international humanitarian law framework and has served on the Coordination Committee of the Convention in various roles over the years. We reiterate our strong commitment to the Convention, and to upholding the prohibition norm against cluster munitions.

Mr. President,

The Third Review Conference is taking place in times of heightened geopolitical tensions coupled with arms races and ongoing armed conflicts in several regions of the world and many of the humanitarian and legal principles and norms that have been established based on the UN Charter to prevent civilian harm and uphold human rights during armed conflict, are challenged and undermined. We are strongly concerned about the unprecedented threats that IHL and our multilateral peace and security architecture are facing.

A weakening commitment to IHL and to the rules of armed conflict for civilians has devastating consequences for civilians. The most vulnerable bear the brunt of war and of the decisions that

parties of armed conflict make in the means of warfare they choose. Especially in such a context we need to support and celebrate all those states that are and remain firm in their conviction that some weapons such as cluster munitions are simply unacceptable due to their indiscriminate effects and the harm they cause.

We need to cooperate and defend our multilateral framework. Small and medium size countries like my own, Austria, are particularly dependent on the rule of law and effective multilateralism to prevail. We must collectively strengthen the protection of civilians not only as a legal, but also as a moral prerogative of our global social contract.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, I once again want to commend your Presidency in the preparations for the Third Review Conference and assure you of Austria's utmost support on the road to Vientiane in September. We will work with you and your presidency to ensure that the achievements of Vientiane, most notably the Vientiane Capital Action Plan (VCAP) can and will be implemented smoothly.

I am very honored and look forward to cooperating with you and with all Delegations in taking this work forward to the 14th meeting of states parties.

Thank you