



EU Statement
Second Preparatory Meeting for
the Third Review Conference of States Parties
to the Convention on Cluster Munitions
Geneva, 1 July 2026

Mr. President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union.

The candidate countries Montenegro, Albania and Republic of Moldova¹, the EFTA country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area, as well as Canada align themselves with this statement.

The European Union welcomes the progress achieved in the preparations for the Third Review Conference and thanks you, the Coordinators and the Implementation Support Unit for the work undertaken thus far.

The EU appreciates the efforts made to develop a forward-looking Review Document and Vientiane Action Plan. We consider the current preparatory process and both documents an opportunity to reinforce implementation of the Convention by States Parties, strengthen cooperation and assistance, further the objectives of the Convention and ensure that it remains responsive to humanitarian needs and supports the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The EU believes that the Review Conference should focus on strengthening implementation effectiveness and advocacy efforts, operational delivery and institutional sustainability. The outcome documents should provide clear, time-bound and achievable guidance for the next review cycle, while maintaining sufficient flexibility to address emerging challenges. Excessive proliferation of commitments, indicators and reporting expectations would risk diluting implementation efforts and weakening overall delivery. We therefore see value in streamlining and prioritising elements of the draft Action Plan in order to strengthen clarity, feasibility and measurable implementation outcomes.

In this regard, the EU attaches particular importance to bolstering implementation support and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the Convention's institutional architecture. The draft Review Document rightly highlights the importance of predictable financing, active participation, effective coordination and meaningful intersessional engagement. These elements remain essential for maintaining a credible Convention framework for real change on the ground. We therefore see value in continued reflection on how best to preserve a sustainable and efficient support structure for the Convention, including through adequate support for its implementation mechanisms.

¹ Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

The EU also welcomes the attention devoted in the draft documents to transparency and reporting. Transparency remains an important tool for supporting implementation, identifying challenges and facilitating cooperation and assistance. At the same time, reporting processes should remain practical and accessible, enabling States Parties to focus resources on implementation while ensuring the availability of relevant information for planning, coordination and resource mobilisation.

The EU further notes the growing emphasis placed in the draft documents on operational implementation in affected countries and communities. Contemporary conflict environments often present increasingly complex challenges, including large-scale contamination, insecurity, restricted access and evolving humanitarian needs. In this regard, we see particular value in continued efforts related to survey and clearance, risk education, information management, victim assistance and the identification of effective implementation practices. The Review Conference and its outcomes should help ensure that implementation efforts continue to deliver tangible benefits for survivors, their families and affected populations and communities, and reaffirm a commitment to gender mainstreaming across the Convention. An inclusive and gender-balanced approach in implementation activities at the national level and in the Convention's machinery, including its meetings, remains crucial and should be further advanced.

In this regard, the EU reaffirms that victim assistance remains a core humanitarian pillar of the Convention. Survivors their families and affected communities, must remain at the centre of our collective efforts. The European Union supports an integrated, rights-based, age-, gender-responsive and disability-inclusive approach to victim assistance and underlines the importance of ensuring equal access to medical care, rehabilitation services, psychosocial support, socio-economic inclusion, education and employment opportunities. The EU welcomes efforts by affected States Parties to strengthen national ownership of victim assistance and to integrate victim assistance commitments into broader national disability, health, social protection and development frameworks.

The EU also attaches importance to international cooperation and assistance. Effective cooperation remains essential to support implementation efforts and to ensure that available resources contribute to sustainable and measurable results. We welcome the continued attention given in the draft outcome documents to strengthening partnerships, coordination and implementation support.

The EU further recognises the potential contribution of innovation and technological developments to implementation efforts, including in the areas of survey, clearance, information management and risk reduction. The Review Conference may offer an opportunity to encourage the exchange of experiences and good practices in this regard.

Finally, the EU sees value in promoting practical synergies across relevant humanitarian disarmament efforts where appropriate, particularly in relation to implementation support, operational coordination and the exchange of good practices, while fully respecting the specific legal frameworks, mandates and membership of the respective instruments. Where possible, we support seeking synergies in the implementation of the CCM with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and other relevant disarmament instruments, such as the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and CCW Protocol V, especially on victim assistance, clearance, and survey as well as with the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda and the Children in Armed Conflict Agenda (CAAC). The EU also sees value in improving predictability, efficiency and coordination of the Convention's meetings architecture within an increasingly crowded disarmament calendar in Geneva.

The EU remains committed to engaging constructively throughout the preparatory process with a view to supporting a focused, credible and implementation-oriented outcome at the Third Review Conference.

I thank you, Mr. President.