

NPA Statement on Agenda item: 5(b)
Second Preparatory Meeting of the Third Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster
Munitions
Geneva, 1 July 2026

Delivered by
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Thank you, Mr. President,

NPA thanks the Presidency and the Coordinators for their efforts in developing the draft Vientiane Capital Action Plan and for the inclusive consultations throughout this process.

The draft provides a good basis for further work and contains important additions that respond to current implementation challenges facing the Convention. However, there is a need to ensure that the final VCAP addresses emerging challenges and builds on the commitments already agreed by States Parties, which current language does not fully reflect, and we will submit our detailed feedback in writing.

We are pleased to see that climate and environmental considerations have been given greater prominence in the draft, including through the inclusion of a new cross-cutting Action 5. This reflects the growing importance of addressing the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation for effective implementation of the Convention and supports the synergies with the Mine Ban Treaty SRAAP. As climate risks increasingly affect survey, clearance and broader mine action operations, integrating these considerations into a mine action response also ensures quality, operational effectiveness and contributes to sustainable development.

We also welcome the inclusion of language on establishing a Voluntary Trust Fund under the Convention to support affected States Parties struggling to secure international assistance for the fulfillment of their Article 4 obligations. In the current funding and political environment, it is essential to ensure sustainable and predictable financing mechanisms that support timely fulfilment of clearance obligations and universalisation efforts. This also strengthens synergies with the Mine Ban Treaty. To ensure this key measure materialises, and we take words to action in this action plan, clear language is necessary that commits states parties to explore the VTF option by the 14MSP and establish one by the 15 MSP. This is both realistic and necessary.

At a time when the Convention is being challenged by Eurocentric security concerns, exemplified by state party Lithuania abandoning this life-saving treaty, it is imperative that the VCAP upholds the humanitarian purpose of the Convention and supports efforts to strengthen its implementation and universalisation. The recognition of the humanitarian consequences of cluster munitions outweighing any perceived military utility is vital to the action plan, as well as the strengthened language on condemning use and production, transfer and stockpiling. We invite even more specific language naming use and withdrawals clearly, as they are matters of facts.



We are deeply concerned by the weakening of the language on gender and diversity. As an operator, NPA knows first-hand how gender-responsive programming is fundamental for effective and efficient implementation of the Convention. If we do not mainstream gender and diversity into operational responses, national strategies and completion plans, we are simply leaving both contamination and people behind. That is unacceptable and in 2026, we must do better. This isn't an arena where we take ideological battles, this is about fulfilling this Convention completely and without reservations, as it's intended to be. We ask you, esteemed delegates, to keep affected people in mind and not block this life-saving treaty from saving the lives of *all* affected people.

We also welcome the provisions on compliance, but urge the Presidency to reflect the alleged use in the document by a State Party Mali, which should be investigated, and the number of violations updated accordingly.

Finally, as more States Parties move closer to completion of their Article 4 obligations, we wish to see a VCAP that supports sustainable national capacity and effective management of residual risk. Ensuring that States Parties retain the ability to address residual contamination, and newly discovered hazards, will become increasingly important in the years ahead.

NPA looks forward to continuing to engage constructively in this process and stands ready to support further work towards a strong and ambitious outcome in Vientiane.

We also fully align ourselves with the input and statements made by the Mine Action Review and the Gender and Diversity Working Group, which we are a member of.

Thank you.