

General Statement – CCM 2nd Preparatory Meeting 1 July 2026

Chair: H.E Mr Anouparb VONGNORKEO, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR

Thank you Chair.

New Zealand extends its appreciation and support for the Lao PDR's leadership as President-Designate, as well as to the Implementation Support Unit, in facilitating States Parties' preparations for the Third Review Conference.

New Zealand remains firmly committed to the Convention on Cluster Munitions and its humanitarian objectives. Since entry into force the Convention has had a significant real-world impact. The Convention has embedded an international norm against the use of cluster munitions, which, in turn, has saved lives. We reiterate that whatever military utility cluster munitions might be perceived to have, the nature of these weapons makes them prone to indiscriminate effects.

Regrettably, the norm against cluster munitions is not yet global. We continue to see instances of these weapons being used and causing unacceptable harm to civilians – despite that pattern of harm both at time of use and post-conflict being now well understood. New Zealand stands in solidarity with the affected communities and remain steadfast in our commitment to support advocacy, clearance, victim assistance and risk education.

In the current global environment, when we see pressure on a range of important humanitarian disarmament norms, it is imperative that as States Parties we also uphold and protect the Convention. We should continue to do so with affected communities and civil society, including the Cluster Munition Coalition and the ICRC, which have been invaluable partners since the Oslo process leading to the Convention's negotiation and adoption.

The Review Conference will be an important opportunity to celebrate the Convention's humanitarian achievements to date, and to look forward to the progress attainable over the next five years and beyond. However, to reflect our current reality the Declaration should also recognise the continued challenges and pressures facing the Convention and our actions as States Parties. In particular, we continue to regret Lithuania's withdrawal from the Convention. And we are deeply concerned about reports of recent and ongoing use of cluster munitions in several conflicts around the world.

In general, we support the elements in the document on Elements for a Political Declaration produced by the Presidency of the CCM's Third Review Conference. We look forward to further engaging on crafting of the specific language of the Political Declaration as part of this meeting and beyond.

Thank you.