

Second Preparatory Meeting for the Third Review Conference

1st July 2026

Statement

The Mines Advisory Group (MAG)

5. Exchange of views on the preparation of documents for the Third Review Conference: (b) Vientiane Capital Action Plan 2027-2031

Mr President

MAG would like to first express our condolences to the delegation of Colombia for their loss.

We would also like to congratulate Austria and Ambassador Kmentt for the appointment as President designate of the 14th MSP. We are very much looking forward to working with you

MAG would like to thank the Lao PDR Presidency and the Implementation Support Unit for the considerable work undertaken in developing the draft Vientiane Capital Action Plan. We appreciate the inclusive and consultative approach adopted throughout this process and are encouraged to see that a number of suggestions previously submitted by MAG have been reflected in the latest draft.

In particular, MAG appreciates the stronger emphasis on national ownership, sustainable national capacities and the recognition that States Parties may be at different stages of implementation of A4 obligations. This recognition is important. Pathways to completion must be realistic and adapted to national circumstances, while post-completion arrangements must ensure that mine action programmes remain capable of responding promptly and effectively when explosive ordnance are discovered after completion.

We would, however, like to offer a few additional reflections for consideration as the text is further refined. These will also be shared in writing.

First, From MAG's operational experience, and consistent with ongoing sector-wide efforts to develop a clearer and more practical understanding of sustainable national capacities, sustainable national ownership requires both operational and institutional capacity. Affected States Parties need the ability not only to deliver clearance, risk education and victim assistance, but also to plan, coordinate, manage information, report, request assistance, mobilise resources and participate meaningfully in Convention processes. This is especially relevant for States with limited dedicated institutional capacity.

MAG would therefore encourage States Parties to preserve this language and, where possible, clarify that capacity development should be understood as support to the national mine action programme as a whole, including its governance, the operational delivery, its partnerships and engagement with the Convention machinery. This holistic approach is essential to bridge policy and programmes and to ensure that Convention commitments

translate into practical, sustainable and nationally owned implementation as well as lessons learned for the rest of the community of practice.

Second, MAG welcomes the strong emphasis placed on risk education throughout the draft, and the recognition of risk education as a life-saving activity in its own right, which should receive dedicated and predictable resources, particularly in contexts where survey and clearance cannot be undertaken due to insecurity, access limitations or ongoing conflict. MAG would also encourage greater emphasis on innovation, not only on survey and clearance, but also in risk education. Recent crisis and increasingly complex operational environments have demonstrated the need for rapid and flexible risk education responses highlighting the importance of context-specific and adaptive approaches to risk reduction strategies, including digital, remote and community-led delivery where appropriate.

Third, while we welcome references to displacement throughout the draft, we encourage the VCAP to adopt a broader human security perspective by recognising that population mobility extends beyond displacement alone. Migration, return movements, seasonal mobility and other forms of population movement may also increase exposure to contamination and affect access to information and services. We therefore suggest referring, where appropriate, to people on the move and other mobile populations, particularly within the risk education section.

Finally, we would like to support the views expressed by Mexico and other states on the issue of gender diversity and agree that language used in the Lausanne Action Plan should at a minimum be retained.

Mr President,

MAG stands ready to continue supporting the Laos PDR Presidency and the Implementation Support Unit as work on the VCAP progresses and remains committed to engaging constructively throughout the process.

Thank you.