

BELGIUM
Statements CCM 2nd PrepCom

Item 5(b) Vientiane Capital Action Plan 2027-2031

Mr. President,

Belgium thanks the Presidency of the Third Review Conference and the Implementation Support Unit for the working documents before us. We welcome them as a solid basis for our consultations ahead of Vientiane. This review cycle matters, as it allows us to ensure that the Convention remains effective, credible and responsive to the current humanitarian and implementation challenges.

On the draft Vientiane Capital Action Plan, Belgium supports the aim of a clear, practical and results-oriented framework. The next Action Plan should preserve the ambition agreed in previous cycles, while helping States Parties turn commitments into concrete progress on the ground. We would highlight four points in this regard.

First, gender and diversity. Belgium attaches particular importance to preserving the agreed language of the Lausanne Action Plan. Implementation should continue to be informed by the diverse needs, vulnerabilities and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men, from different populations and all ages. This is especially relevant for Action 4. We encourage the next draft to maintain, and where possible strengthen, existing consensus language, including on full, equal, inclusive, meaningful and gender-balanced participation.

Second, the indicators. Indicators are essential to monitor progress, but they should be tied directly to the objective of each action and, where possible, measure real progress in implementation rather than the mere existence of a report, a process or an activity. Pairing each indicator with a clear baseline and, where feasible, a measurable target, so that progress can be assessed against a defined reference point over the cycle.

Third, climate and the environment. Belgium welcomes the growing attention given to these considerations. They are increasingly relevant to implementation, including survey, clearance, and risk education. We support reflecting them through a dedicated cross-

cutting action, while at the same time integrating them into the relevant thematic sections. In this regard we welcome the addition of dedicated Action #5.

Fourth, the voluntary trust fund. Belgium believes the timing is premature for a focused discussion on the feasibility of a voluntary trust fund. Similar discussions are presently ongoing under the Ottawa Convention, and it would be useful to consider how these evolve before taking further action.

I thank you.

Item 5(c) Political Declaration

Mr. President,

On the elements for a Political Declaration, Belgium supports a concise and clear text. It should reaffirm the humanitarian purpose of the Convention, recognise the rights and needs of victims and survivors, underline the importance of universalisation, and preserve and uphold the norm and stigma against the use of cluster munitions. It should clearly condemn any use of cluster munitions, by any actor and under any circumstances.

Belgium remains ready to engage constructively with the Presidency, States Parties, the ISU, civil society and all partners, to ensure that the documents for this Review Conference are ambitious, practical and focused on implementation.

Thank you.