



Statement of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

**Second Preparatory Meeting for
the Third Review Conference of States Parties
to the Convention on Cluster Munitions**

**Agenda item 5: Exchange of views on the preparation of documents
for the Third Review Conference**

5b) Vientiane Capital Action Plan 2027-2031

5c) Political Declaration

Geneva, 1 July 2026

delivered by

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Conference on Disarmament**

On agenda item 5b) Vientiane Capital Action Plan 2027-2031

Thank you, Mr. President.

[expression of condolences of the passing of Ambassador Gallon of Colombia]

The Kingdom of the Netherlands thanks you, your team and the Implementation Support Unit for the work undertaken in preparing the draft Vientiane Capital Action Plan. We appreciate the inclusive and structured way in which States Parties and stakeholders have been consulted, and commend the Lao Presidency for steering this process towards a focused and implementation-oriented outcome at the Third Review Conference.

We recognise that this Review Conference is taking place in a complex and evolving security environment. This makes it all the more important that we reaffirm the humanitarian purpose of the Convention, strengthen respect for its norms and ensure that the new Action Plan remains firmly grounded in practical delivery for affected States Parties and communities.

Looking at the draft Vientiane Capital Action Plan, the Netherlands welcomes in particular:

- the clear cross-cutting focus on national ownership and sustainable capacities, including integration of CCM implementation into national policies, plans and budgets;
- the stronger emphasis on inclusive implementation, with attention to gender, age, disability and affected communities, and the links to broader frameworks such as the SDGs, the Convention on the Rights of

Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Women, Peace and Security and Youth, Peace and Security agendas;

- the recognition of climate and environmental considerations as a cross-cutting element, with references to environmental and climate risk assessments for survey, clearance and stockpile destruction.

At the same time, we would favour a more balanced tone in the introductory paragraphs of the Action Plan. While it is necessary to acknowledge troubling developments, we believe the introduction to an Action Plan should first underline determination, the humanitarian objective of the Convention and the progress achieved, and only then set out the challenges. This would better reflect the spirit of an implementation plan and help maintain a forward-looking, constructive framing.

Substantively, we see a few areas where the Action Plan can be further strengthened:

- **Youth:** We welcome the recognition of youth in the draft documents, including in the context of broader partnerships and the Youth, Peace and Security agenda. The Netherlands would support more concrete references to meaningful youth participation in risk education, awareness-raising and national CCM-related processes, building on the positive experience of existing youth engagement under the Convention.
- **Localisation and national ownership:** We fully support Action 1 and 2, and encourage even clearer language on localisation: putting affected States Parties, national authorities and local organisations in the lead, and ensuring that international cooperation systematically builds national systems and capacities rather than replacing them. Integrating

CCM and APMBC implementation in survey and clearance, where appropriate, can help reduce duplication and improve efficiency.

- **Mental health and psychosocial support:** The Netherlands strongly supports the victim assistance section of the Vientiane Capital Action Plan. We welcome its alignment with the CRPD, the SDGs and relevant IMAS, and its focus on data collection, national focal points, action plans and socio-economic inclusion. We would encourage explicit recognition of mental health and psychosocial support within victim assistance commitments, alongside medical care, rehabilitation, assistive technology and social protection. The long-term psychological impacts of cluster munitions on survivors, families and communities require sustained attention and should be clearly reflected in the actions and indicators.
- **Climate and environment:** We support the draft actions on integrating environmental and climate considerations into national strategies and workplans, and on conducting environmental and climate risk assessments in survey, clearance and stockpile destruction, so that operations restore safety without creating new vulnerabilities. The Netherlands would favour strong, practical language encouraging States Parties to apply relevant international standards, including IMAS, in a way that minimises environmental impact, supports safe and sustainable land use and takes account of climate-related hazards affecting operations and communities.
- **Gender and diversity:** On gender and diversity, the Netherlands supports strong, practical language across all pillars of the Convention, based on the agreed language of the Lausanne Action Plan, particularly on Action

4 and Actions 23, 28A and 28C. In this regard, we align with the joint gender statement delivered by Mexico.

Finally, we would like to support the proposal by Japan and others on language regarding a withdrawal of the Convention, as expressed under the previous agenda item.

Thank you.

On agenda item 5c) Political Declaration

We thank the Presidency for the proposed elements of the Political Declaration. My delegation would favour a short and concise text built around three core messages:

- reaffirming the humanitarian purpose and norm of the Convention, including strong concern about any use of cluster munitions and the severe humanitarian consequences that follow (proposed elements 1, 5, 9);
- recognising the concrete achievements since the last Review Conference in stockpile destruction, clearance, risk education and victim assistance (proposed elements 2 and 3); and
- looking ahead by recommitting to preserve the integrity of the Convention, promote universal adherence and support national ownership, cooperation and assistance under the Vientiane Capital Action Plan (proposed elements 8, 12 and 13).

The Netherlands remains fully committed to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, its norms and its humanitarian objectives. We look forward to working with you and all delegations to refine the Review Document, the Vientiane Capital Action Plan and the Political Declaration in a way that supports practical, measurable implementation and responds to the realities faced by affected States and communities.

Thank you, Mr. President.