



**EMBASSY AND PERMANENT MISSION OF SIERRA LEONE
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**Second Preparatory Meeting for the Third Review Conference of the Convention on
Cluster Munitions**

**Agenda Item 5: Exchange of views on the preparation of documents for the Third Review
Conference
Geneva, 1 July 2026**

Mr. President,

At the outset, Sierra Leone joins previous speakers in expressing its sincere condolences to the delegation of Colombia on the passing of Ambassador and Permanent Representative Gallon.

Sierra Leone congratulates you on your appointment to preside over the Second Preparatory Meeting and thanks the Presidency of the Third Review Conference, the Implementation Support Unit and the Secretariat for their continued efforts in guiding preparations towards Vientiane. We also congratulate Austria for their appointment as President Designate of the 14th MSP.

Sierra Leone aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the African Group and wishes to offer a few remarks in its national capacity. With your indulgence, Mr. President, Sierra Leone will deliver a single intervention covering items under Agenda Item 5 as a whole.

As an early State Party to the Convention, Sierra Leone remains firmly committed to its object and purpose. Our own experience of conflict and recovery continues to reinforce our conviction that humanitarian disarmament, the protection of civilians and respect for international humanitarian law remain indispensable to sustainable peace and development.

Mr. President,

Sierra Leone appreciates the considerable work undertaken by the Presidency in preparing and refining the draft documents before us. We note the progress made in consolidating and streamlining these texts. As we continue our review of the drafts, we wish to offer the following preliminary observations in a constructive spirit, while looking forward to continued consultations ahead of the Third Review Conference.

With respect to the draft Review Document, Sierra Leone considers it important that the final text presents a balanced reflection of both the Convention's achievements and the challenges that remain. Taken together, the findings underscore that, while the Convention has achieved significant

humanitarian progress, sustaining those achievements will require renewed attention to effective and sustainable implementation.

Turning to the draft Vientiane Capital Action Plan, Sierra Leone attaches particular importance to strengthening nationally owned implementation, building sustainable national capacities, promoting effective transparency and reporting, and ensuring that international cooperation and assistance remain predictable and responsive to nationally identified priorities. We also support inclusive implementation that takes into account the different needs, vulnerabilities and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men, as well as affected populations and communities, consistent with the Convention's established commitments and humanitarian purpose. The next Action Plan should remain focused, practical and implementation-oriented, providing States Parties with a clear framework for translating shared commitments into tangible results over the next implementation cycle.

Regarding the proposed Political Declaration, Sierra Leone believes it should continue to preserve the Convention's humanitarian purpose and integrity, reinforce its norms, advance universalisation through continued dialogue and engagement with States not yet party, and maintain a clear focus on the protection of civilians, while recognising the rights, meaningful participation and dignity of victims, survivors and affected communities. The humanitarian purpose of the Convention should remain the guiding consideration throughout our deliberations.

At a time of growing international tensions and evolving humanitarian challenges, Sierra Leone believes it is more important than ever that States Parties continue to work collectively to preserve the Convention's humanitarian purpose, strengthen the norms it has established, and demonstrate the enduring value of humanitarian disarmament.

Finally, with regard to implementation support, Sierra Leone takes note of the ongoing consultations on possible guidelines for the Sponsorship Programme. We recognise the importance of transparent, inclusive and equitable sponsorship arrangements that facilitate the meaningful participation of all States Parties, particularly developing countries, and contribute to the effective implementation of the Convention.

Mr. President,

Sierra Leone remains committed to engaging constructively with all delegations throughout this preparatory process and looks forward to achieving balanced, practical and consensus-based outcomes in Vientiane.

I thank you.