

**THIRD REVIEW CONFERENCE: Convention on Cluster Munitions**  
**14 - 18 September 2026 - Vientiane, Lao PDR**  
**General statement by Canada**

Thank you, merci, Mr. Chair,

On behalf of the Delegation of Canada, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to you and to the Lao PDR Presidency for the manner in which you have prepared us for the work of this important Review Conference through open dialogue, informal consultations and timeliness in the preparation of the documentation.

I take this opportunity also to thank the Implementation Support Unit for its essential contribution in preparing us for this week.

We are pleased to have the opportunity to address you, your team, and all distinguished representatives here in Vientiane, on this milestone occasion of our  
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Given the numerous challenges States Parties and non-State Parties face today in the collective effort to preserve peace and security, international humanitarian law, and the norms established by the multilateral arms-control framework, it is crucial that we reaffirm our commitment to the humanitarian disarmament architecture.

Canada ' s support for the goals and objectives of the Convention on Cluster Munitions remain consistent and unwavering.

Canada is proud to be a State Party to the Convention, and we continue to believe that cluster munitions should not be used, given their indiscriminate effects.

Canada calls on all States which have not yet joined the Convention, to do so as soon as possible.

We also recall that States not party to the Convention remain legally bound by their obligations under IHL during armed conflict. These include the rules

governing hostilities, such as distinction, proportionality, and precautions in attack.

These obligations apply to all means and methods of warfare, including cluster munitions. Canada discourages all States not party to this Convention from engaging in the transfer, stockpiling, and use of cluster munitions.

Mr. President,

Canada is pleased that the world reached a new annual record for global clearance of cluster munition-contaminated areas. This news is indeed very much needed and welcomed.

As a State Party, we remain firmly committed to ending the suffering and long-lasting impacts caused by these indiscriminate weapons, which disproportionately impact civilians long after a conflict ends.

We welcome advances made towards the norms of the Convention, particularly noting States Parties' achievements in clearance and stockpile destruction.

Despite these gains, we must face the reality of existing challenges. We are concerned by the documented use and allegations of use of cluster munitions over the last year in multiple regions around the world.

This is a worrying and regrettable increase since our last Review Conference in Lausanne.

Additionally, rising geopolitical tensions , R u s s i a ' s i l l e g a l i n v a s i o n of Ukraine, as well as other conflicts worldwide amplify the remaining challenges in advancing the goals of this Convention.

26 states and other areas remain contaminated by cluster munitions and their remnants.

Mr. President,

Canada wishes to underscore that gender considerations are not a peripheral issue in humanitarian disarmament –they are essential to the effective implementation of our conventions and commitments.

The impacts of armed conflict, explosive weapons, landmines, cluster munitions, and the accumulation of weapons are not experienced equally by all, given the differentiated impacts these deplorable weapons can cause.

Indeed, women, men, girls, and boys often face different risks, barriers to assistance, and pathways to recovery.

Recognizing these realities allows us to design more effective policies, deliver more inclusive victim assistance, and strengthen implementation on the ground.

This is not about advancing a political agenda. It is about ensuring that our work is informed by evidence and reflects the lived experiences of all those affected by armed violence.

Gender-responsive approaches improve outcomes, strengthen participation, and enhance the credibility and effectiveness of our disarmament frameworks.

At a time when some seek to dilute or remove references to gender, we believe it is important to reaffirm the commitments already made across numerous disarmament and humanitarian instruments.

Rolling back agreed language would neither advance implementation nor better serve affected communities. Instead, it would risk ignoring critical dimensions of harm and reducing the effectiveness of our collective efforts.

We therefore encourage all States Parties to continue supporting the meaningful integration of gender perspectives, as well as the full, equal, meaningful and effective participation of women in disarmament processes.

Mr. President,

Canada remains committed to supporting and fostering collaboration with numerous non-governmental organizations and representatives from international bodies to promote inclusivity in advancing the Convention.

These partners play a crucial role in strengthening the norm against cluster munitions and working towards a global environment free from the destructive impact of these indiscriminate and inhumane weapons.

We particularly welcome youth participation in this Convention, and Canada continues to support efforts to bring youth to our disarmament meetings, wherever they may be, in order to foster a new generation of arms control and disarmament practitioners.

Mr. President,

Turning specifically to Laos, Canada is pleased to announce new funding through the United Nations Development Programme to strengthen humanitarian UXO clearance and demining capacities in Laos.

Through this new contribution, Canada will support the National Regulatory Authority and national humanitarian demining units, including Center 523, as they address the long-term impact of explosive remnants of war and other explosive hazards.

The provision of equipment, specialized training, and operational support will advance the implementation of DSR obligations under the CCM, while aligning it further with the Ottawa Convention.

Canada recognizes the Government of Laos addressing these challenges and the importance of sustained international support to national institutions. Together we can achieve SDG 18.

Lastly, Mr. Chair, I once again express Canada's deepest appreciation for the Lao PDR's leadership in advancing our shared munitions.

Khop chai lai lai, merci, thank you.

