



STATEMENT

“Agenda item 9 (a) Universalization”

15 September 2026

The 3rd Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions
14-18 September 2026, Vientiane Capital

(Please check against delivery)

**Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,**

At the outset, I wish to express our sincere appreciation to **Norway and Costa Rica**, the **Coordinators on Universalization of the Convention**, for their dedicated efforts to advance wider adherence to the Convention.

The Lao PDR warmly welcomes and congratulates **Vanuatu** as the **112th State Party to the Convention**, effective 1 March 2026. Vanuatu's accession strengthens the global norm against cluster munitions and demonstrates the continuing relevance of the Convention. We encourage States that have not yet done so to consider joining the Convention.

Excellencies,

As one of the countries most heavily affected by cluster munition remnants, the Lao PDR's national experience gives particular meaning to our efforts to promote wider adherence to the Convention and respect for its norms.

Universalisation has therefore been an important priority of our Presidency. Throughout 2026, we have sought to translate this commitment into practical diplomatic engagement at bilateral, regional and international levels.

In May, the Lao PDR organized the **Regional Workshop on the Convention on Cluster Munitions for Asia-Pacific** in Vientiane, bringing together States and partners to deepen understanding of the Convention, exchange experiences and encourage wider participation in our region.

We also pursued targeted bilateral engagement, including through a study visit by representatives of Solomon Islands, to share the Lao PDR's experience in addressing the humanitarian and developmental consequences of cluster munition remnants and encourage closer engagement with the Convention. At the same time, public awareness and youth engagement, particularly through the launch the 2026 Youth Campaign, **“Voices Across Time: Strengthening the Lao Youth Legacy in Humanitarian Disarmament,”** on 4 April 2026, have formed part of our ongoing efforts to strengthen understanding of the humanitarian purpose of the Convention.

These experiences reaffirm our conviction that universalisation requires sustained dialogue and engagement. It cannot be achieved through appeals alone.

Excellencies,

Looking ahead, the Lao PDR believes that our efforts should focus on three areas: **strengthening targeted diplomatic and regional outreach to non-State parties, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region; reinforcing respect for the Convention's norms and promoting the humanitarian principles of the Convention through bilateral, regional, and multilateral forums; and strengthening partnerships among State Parties, the Universalisation Coordinators, the Implementation Support Unit, international organisations, civil society, and youth.**

Affected States can also contribute by sharing their experience in clearance, risk education, victim assistance and demonstrating how implementation of the Convention protects lives, releases land for productive use and supports sustainable development.

The Lao PDR stands ready to continue working with all State Parties, signatories, non-State Parties and partners to build political will and generate renewed momentum for universalisation.

Every State that joins strengthen the Convention and reinforces our collective determination to prevent the suffering caused by cluster munitions.

Let us seize this opportunity to broaden the reach of the Convention, strengthen respect for its norms and accelerate progress towards universal adherence, as well a world free from the use and threat of cluster munitions.

Thank you.