

Statement by
H.E. Mr. Sarun Charoensuwan
Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand
Agenda item 8: High Level Segment
“Reaffirming the determination to put an end for all time to the suffering and casualties
caused by cluster munitions”
at the Third Review Conference of States Parties to
the Convention on Cluster Munition (3rd CCM RevCon),
Vientiane, Lao People’s Democratic Republic
14 September 2026

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Mr. President, His Excellency Thongsavan Phomvihane, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR,

1. It is an honour to represent His Excellency Mr. Sihasak Phuangketkeow, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, at this important meeting.
2. On his behalf, I wish to congratulate you and the Lao PDR on assuming the Presidency of the Third Review Conference of State Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions.
3. Thailand has full confidence that, under your able leadership, the Conference will help accelerate progress towards a world free from the threat of cluster munitions.
4. Thailand echoes the concern over the devastating humanitarian impact of landmines and explosive remnants of war in this region.
5. In this regard, we commend the Lao PDR for its pivotal role in advancing the Convention and its humanitarian cause, including as host of the first Meeting of States Parties in 2010 in Vientiane. We also congratulate the Lao PDR in being the first country to adopt a dedicated national SDG18 “Lives Safe from UXO” as part of its national efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
6. Despite facing severe cluster munitions contamination, the Lao PDR has demonstrated extraordinary leadership in restoring dignity, safety, and the well-being of affected populations and communities in our region and beyond.

Mr. President,

7. While not a State Party to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), as in the case with many other countries, Thailand stands with States Parties in reaffirming our unwavering commitment to the Convention's core humanitarian principles and international humanitarian law.
8. This commitment to humanitarian disarmament is manifested in our regular participation as Observer State in CCM meetings, our continuous support for the United Nations General Assembly resolutions on the cluster munitions, and our sustained contribution to international mine action. Through capacity building, technical sharing, regional partnerships, and operational training, our efforts directly complement the humanitarian objectives and the implementation of the Convention.
9. As a longstanding advocate for humanitarian disarmament and an active State Party to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), Thailand's commitment to mine action and the clearance of Explosive Remnants of War is evident. We are deeply concerned by the continued use of these indiscriminate and deadly weapons. Such actions directly endanger civilian lives and inflict lasting scars on human security and development.
10. Looking ahead, Thailand welcomes the strategic direction set out in the draft Vientiane Action Plan 2027-2031. From our perspective as an observer state, we support its focus on national ownership, victim assistance, socio-economic inclusion, and its contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Mr. President,

11. I am compelled to respond to allegations made by the representative of Cambodia. I will focus on issues related to this Meeting.
12. First of all, Thailand regrets that Cambodia has sought to internationalise the conflict between our two countries, which is not helpful to rebuilding mutual trust and confidence necessary for the speedy resolution of the conflict. On allegations of Cambodia, Thailand has repeatedly clarified this matter through official Royal Thai Army communications issued in July, October, and December 2025, as well as formal correspondence sent to the President of the 13th Meeting of States Parties to the CCM. I wish to highlight some key points.
13. Conflict with Cambodia has never been in Thailand's interest, and we did not initiate it. But, unfortunately, the provoked armed attacks launched from across the border directly impacted civilian areas, including residential homes, hospitals,

and local businesses, resulting in the death of many civilians, including women and children, and more than 400,000 Thai civilians were displaced during the conflict.

14. Furthermore, thirteen (13) Thai soldiers lost their legs from stepping on newly emplaced anti-personnel mines while operating along Thailand-Cambodia border.
15. All defensive operations and measures by the Royal Thai Armed Forces strictly adhere to the principles of distinction, proportionality, precaution, and military necessity, in compliance with the Rules of Engagement (ROE). All actions are strictly limited to military targets.
16. The use of all types of weapons is carefully planned, strictly necessary, and governed by international humanitarian principles. Operations strictly target military objectives, never civilian residences, infrastructure, or areas.
17. To immediately suppress incoming BM-21 rocket launchers and heavy artillery bombardments across the border targeting Thai civilians and critical infrastructure, the Dual-Purpose Improved Conventional Munitions (DPICM) were deployed as the most effective, proportionate and necessary military capability available. These defensive operations strictly targeted active military targets to rapidly neutralize firing positions and prevent further loss of Thai civilian lives.
18. As clarified by Royal Army Spokesperson, the DPICMs are used against military targets to enhance destruction capabilities. They are not anti-personnel landmines and leaves no long-term residual effects.
19. But Thailand continues to believe that, with sincerity, good faith and mutual respect, Thailand and Cambodia, as close neighbours, can work together through existing bilateral mechanisms to find peaceful and mutually acceptable solutions to the issues between us.
20. Furthermore, Thailand takes note of the 2026 Cluster Munition Monitor Report, but expresses grave concern over its one-sided accounts. While respecting the mandate of the ICBL-CMC, Thailand regrets that the formal views and facts we conveyed to the editorial team were omitted, and we strongly urge the editors to fully reflect Thailand's account in the record.

Mr. President,

21. To conclude, Thailand remains an unwavering advocate for humanitarian disarmament. We will continue to play a constructive role in advancing global, regional and national disarmament efforts, particularly with regard to international cooperation and victim assistance.
22. Thailand looks forward to engaging constructively with all parties. We wish the Lao PDR a successful Presidency of the 3rd CCM Review Conference, as well as the successful adoption of the Vientiane Capital Action Plan (VCAP) 2027 - 2031, which will serve as a practical roadmap for advancing the Convention's humanitarian objectives.
23. Thank you for your kindness.

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